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An Austrian Foot Soldier.



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AN
ACCURATE AND IMPARTIAL NARRATIVE
OF
THE WAR,
BY AN OFFICER OF THE GUARDS.
IN TWO VOLUMES.
CONTAINING
THE SECOND EDITION
OF
A POETICAL SKETCH
OF THE
CAMPAIGN OF 1793,
REVISED, CORRECTED, AND CONSIDERABLY ENLARGED,
WITH THE ORIGINAL LETTERS FROM HEAD-QUARTERS;
ALSO
A SIMILAR SKETCH OF THE
CAMPAIGN OF 1794;
TO WHICH IS ADDED,
A NARRATIVE OF THE
RETREAT OF 1795,
MEMORABLE FOR ITS MISERIES.
WITH COPIOUS NOTES THROUGHOUT.
EMBELLISHED WITH ENGRAVINGS
From Drawings taken on the Spot, descriptive of the different Scenes
introduced in the Poem.

VOL. I.

" Per varios casus, per tot discrimina rerum " VIRG.

London :

Printed for the Author.—Published by CADELL and DAVIES, Strand;
And sold also by J. EDWARDS, Pall-Mall; T. EGERTON, at the Military Library, Whitehall; HOOKHAM and CARPENTER, and R. FAULDER, Bond-street; R. WHITE, Piccadilly; F. and C. RIVINGTON, St. Paul's Church-Yard; and W. RICHARDSON, Royal-Exchange.

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THE SECOND EDITION

A POETICAL SKETCH

OF THE

CAMPAIGN OF 1793.

Entered at Stationers Hall.



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A
S K E T C H
OF THE
CAMPAIGN OF 1793.
IN TWO PARTS.

PART I.

IN A
SERIES OF LETTERS,
FROM
AN OFFICER OF THE BRIGADE OF GUARDS ON THE
CONTINENT,
TO
A FRIEND
IN
DEVONSHIRE.

VOL. I.

SKETCH

OF THE

CAMPAIGN OF 1793

IN TWO PARTS

PART I

IN A

SERIES OF LETTERS

FROM

AN OFFICER OF THE REGIMENT OF GUARDS ON THE
CONTINENT

TO

A FRIEND

IN

DEVONSHIRE

AUSTRIAN INFANTRY.

THE dress of the Austrian Infantry is, a white jacket that buttons straight down to the waist, with coloured collar, cuffs, and skirts turned back, before and behind. The difference between the Hungarians and the rest, consists merely in the former wearing *pantaloon*s, and short half-boots (as described in the plate, which should have been called, *an Hungarian battalion-man*) and the latter being clothed in white breeches, and long black gaiters, like the British. The corps of O'DONNELL have *green* jackets, with *red* pantaloons, and instead of small leather, wear Hussar *caps*. The other *fri corps* are chiefly clothed in grey, or green. In the frontispiece to vol. II, the soldier is faced round, to shew his *pouch*, *accoutrements*, and method of tying the hair. The front of the leather caps *turns* down, to guard the face from the *sun*, and, in wet weather, the back of the neck from rain. When in action the soldier usually turns the plate behind, lest its glittering should attract the notice of the enemy. Their parade dress is in the plates alone described; on duty, in camp, or on a march (except in the *heat* of summer, when it is neatly rolled up, and slung over the right shoulder) they at all times wear a loose straight-cut great coat, of a light-brown colour, and put on their accoutrements above it. Thus appointed, as their firelocks are not highly polished, it becomes difficult for the enemy to ascertain their numbers, or to perceive their approach: in an instant they can throw off *this surtout*, and appear perfectly neat and clean dressed for parade.

AUSTRIAN INFANTRY.

The dress of the Austrian Infantry is a white jacket, the buttons having been to the waist, with a colored collar, cuffs, and skirts turned back before and behind. The difference between the Hungarians and the rest consists merely in the former wearing kamiskows, and short half-boots (as described in the plate, which should have been called, as Hungarian costume-men) and the latter being clothed in white breeches, and long black gaiters, like the British. The corps of O'Donoghue have green jackets, with red panaloon, and instead of small ischer, wear bluish caps. The infantry corps are chiefly clothed in grey, or green. In the hospital to vol. II, the soldier is faced forward, to show his face, and in action the soldier usually turns the front of the leather cap away down, to guard the face from the sun, and in wet weather, the back of the neck from rain. When in action the soldier usually turns the plate behind, to a glancing shield against the enemy. Their parade dress is in the plate. Their uniform, on duty, is in the plate. In the plate, when in the field, they wear the night shirt, and a light-colored coat, and put on their accoutrements above. This is not correct, as their accoutrements are not light, but dark, and are difficult for the enemy to discern. Their accoutrements are in the plate. In the plate, they are shown off in the field, and appear perfectly new and clean, and in the plate.

INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER,

Tracing the causes and progress of the War, between Great Britain and the French Republic, previous to the embarkation of the Guards for Holland.

IN this happy Island, where freedom has taken deep root, and shot forth the most luxuriant branches, overshadowing the subject, and insuring to him personal security, and the full enjoyment of his property; where the limited sway of the monarch is blended with that of the nobility, and of the people, in so judicious a manner, that no branch of our glorious Constitution is allowed to preponderate to the detriment of the other component parts; the French Revolution, at its commencement, naturally met with many friends, appearing the struggle of a people groaning under the oppression of an arbitrary, unprincipled, and voluptuous court, for the blessings of that liberty which we, as Britons, so pre-eminently enjoy. But when we beheld that very people quitting the principles of freedom for the extravagance of licentiousness, breaking through every barrier, and carrying devastation wherever they bent their head-strong course, slaves to every species of depravity, and committing hourly the most atrocious excesses, we turned from such scenes of horror with loathing and disgust.

The ambitious views of the heterogeneous rulers of infatuated France, led them, by the decree passed in the National Convention, on the 19th of November, 1792, to manifest the unwarrantable design of extending universally their new doctrines, and of encouraging, in all countries, insurrection and revolt. Our government found it, therefore, highly expedient to look to its internal state of defence, and to be fully prepared for any event that might ensue: the navy was accordingly increased, and put upon a respectable footing; and the army considerably augmented. Called upon by Monsieur CHAUVLIN, a citizen of the new-created Republic, (for after royalty had been abolished in France, he could not, in this country, be received in any diplomatic capacity) to declare the reason of such hostile preparations; our government justly alledged the determination of France to persist in opening the navigation of the Scheldt, which was fully discussed in Parliament; and it was evident that a war between the two countries became for that reason unavoidable. Great Britain, however, made no advances towards it, willing to use every effort in her power to save the persecuted LOUIS, at that time a prisoner, and undergoing a mock trial at the bar of the Convention. Had their monarch been acquitted, as the moderate party would thereby have gained the ascendancy, they probably might have relinquished the arrogant plan of annulling all stipulations relative to the Scheldt. But no sooner was the blade of that merciless machine, which had so long hung suspended by a very slender thread over the mild and unfortunate LOUIS, suffered to descend,* to

* LOUIS the XVIth was executed on the 21st of Jan. 1793, by a sentence, says Dr. MOORE, "in direct opposition to that Constitution

the astonishment and indignation of every man of common humanity, than the French put at once a period to all hopes of a pacific tendency, by precipitately declaring war against Great Britain.

Innumerable pamphlets have been sent forth to prove that they were compelled to this measure in their own defence; but they were not surely compelled to open the river, which was the only object of contention; nor can any sophistry persuade a moderate Englishman that it would have been to our honour, or to our interest, to have permitted a set of men, who had assumed to themselves a lawless authority, actuated by a most extravagant and tyrannical ambition, before their power had been established even in their own country, to dictate to us in a haughty and imperious tone, and to aim at overthrow-

"adopted and sworn to *by his judges*"—and with a very trifling majority of suffrages in the Convention for his death. It has been thought extraordinary, by those who do not consider the propensity of the French to run into extremes, that they, who had been such servile admirers of their *grand monarque*, should so soon throw off every sentiment of respect, and not satisfied with bringing him to an ignominious death, treat his memory with such indecency, as to pass to the order of the day, when his dying request was made known to the Convention, "that he might be buried with his father," while MICHAEL LE PELETIER, who was assassinated by PARIS for having voted for the death of CAPET, was interred with the highest national honours. It has been remarked also, that the 21st of the month seems to have been a date particularly ominous and fatal to LOUIS the XVIth; on the 21st of April 1770, he was married to a Princess whose imprudence certainly facilitated his ruin; 21st of June following, *the fête* took place in honour of his nuptials, when 1,500 of his subjects lost their lives, by endeavouring, in an immense croud, to push through a square at Paris which had formerly been a *thoroughfare*, but was at that time unknown to them stopped up; 21st of January 1791, he was arrested at *Varrennes*; 21st of September 1792, he was dethroned, and royalty in France abolished; and on the 21st of January 1793, he fell an innocent victim to popular frenzy, without a single crime having been proved against him.

ing the commercial treaties then subsisting between Great Britain and the other nations of Europe.

Difficult as it may be, when the opposition of opinion, runs high, to avoid the violence of *parties; unconnected with, and independant of them all*, the author has, in the following pages, endeavoured to lay before the public an authentic and impartial narrative of the present extraordinary war, from the time Great Britain has been actually engaged in it, without further comment upon political events, than is absolutely necessary for that purpose. To that end he has traced out a *slight sketch* of the operations carried on by our Allies engaged in the same cause, detailing more particularly the events that occurred where he had *himself* the honour, with his countrymen, to be employed.

While France was torn to pieces by internal commotions, the rabble running wild, and displaying the ferocity which some, even of their own writers, have thought a part of their natural disposition, in a manner till then unknown in any civilized country, she had, at the head of her armies, a general of uncommon abilities, both in the cabinet and in the field; who, with a set of miserable ragamuffins, aptly termed Sansculottes* of the first requi-

* This name was originally given to some of the lowest ragged rabble of Paris, when the madness of party brought them into power; it was given also to the French soldiers, when they adopted as the most useful and economical dress, long close trowsers. In some instances when they were first formed, it might have been applicable enough in the first or literal signification of the term. The method of recruiting the armies in France was rather singular, when the nation boasted of its *liberty*. An armed force surrounded a *village*, the non-commissioned officers *entered it*, and every man of the age specified according to the *requisition*, was dragged forth and compelled to serve as a *volunteer*. These soldiers, styled themselves (according to accounts received from prisoners) *Volentiers forcés*.

sition, had opposed and conquered, in the campaign of 1792, an army of experienced veterans, regularly trained and disciplined to the art of war, and deservedly accounted the finest soldiers in the universe. Such was the rabble that DUMOURIEZ had collected, and so little confidence could he place in the bravery of his own soldiers, that he is said to have thought it necessary, at the battle of Gemappe, to plant his troops of the line, and part of his park of artillery * in the rear of the national volunteers, threatening to fire through them upon the enemy, if they attempted to retreat. Though thousands of these men were mowed down by the fire from the enemy's redoubts, he persevered, and drove the Austrians from a position where they were entrenched in the completest manner, and defended by chains of batteries commanding each other upon regular heights, rendering the attack extremely hazardous, and the event equally doubtful.

It is well known that the invasion of France by the Prussians and Austrians was undertaken at the instigation, and by the advice of the banished princes of the house of Bourbon. The failure of the Duke of BRUNSWICK may

* This was generally believed, though DUMOURIEZ in his memoirs, states the troops at the battle of *Gemappe* to have been actuated by no motive stronger than attachment to himself, and that enthusiasm naturally inspired by the reflections arising from their fighting in the cause of freedom. He might have added the inspiration of *Geneva*, which was in great quantities served out to the French armies, whenever an engagement was expected.

DUMOURIEZ states his loss to have amounted only to 2,000 men, it was however universally computed at 10,000, and the Austrians reckoned it at 15,000. He certainly had the merit of rendering his troops desperate in the attack, and his victory was complete, making him master of the *Netherlands*, for without meeting with any further serious opposition, *Mons*, *Brussels*, *Liege*, *Namur*, and *Aix la Chapelle*, fell into his possession.

be easily, and in various ways accounted for. He entered France by the unwholesome country of champagne, at the head of an army, by no means adequately provided with *any one* requisite for taking the field.

The King of PRUSSIA had unthinkingly listened to the emigrant princes, who assured him every gate would fly open on his approach, and that the peasants would eagerly flock to supply his troops with forage and provisions: they were therefore but little prepared for the fatal reverse they experienced, and the opposition they met with, was encreased by the threatening and ill-judged manifestos of the Duke.

A dreadful dysentery* enfeebled and disheartened the coalesced armies, rendered more virulent by eagerly devouring the unripe grapes, which clustering in their view, tempted them, as they marched through the vineyards. We may add to all this, the jealousy that has ever existed between the two allied powers; often has the Duke of BRUNSWICK been heard to declare, he could easily have advanced to *Paris* with the same force well supplied with camp necessaries, and composed entirely of Prussians, or entirely of Austrians; but what could be expected, when, if a

* So distressed were the Prussians at the camp de la lune, near Verdun, owing to the dysentery, and a want of provisions, that Dumouriez declares they were reduced to the necessity of devouring the horses that had had perished, from a total want of forage; the water also was of a bad quality in the extreme. Upon their retreat, when Gen. Dampierre was ordered to take possession of the camp they had abandoned, he found it in such a state, that he was forced to withdraw his troops, lest they might have caught that terrible disorder, the dysentery. "*On trouva le camp de la lune pleines de cadavres d'hommes, et des chevaux. Les fosses étoient pleines de sang; des malheureux soldats y étoient tombés et y avoient péri.*"

plan of operations was proposed by a general of one nation, it was immediately objected to by the leaders of the other.

It was at this period when the allies had withdrawn their few remaining troops from their ill-conducted invasion, and DUMOURIEZ had in his turn overrun the Netherlands, and established his head quarters at Aix la Chapelle, that the National Convention threw down the gauntlet, and bade defiance * to Great Britain.

The first measures deemed necessary was to provide for the immediate defence of our allies the Dutch, threatened by a most formidable invasion. A part of DUMOURIEZ' army, consisting of about 3,000 disaffected Hollanders, termed the Batavia Legim, and 10,000† French had actually appeared within a few miles of *Breda*, rendering the situation of the united provinces at that time truly critical, and the conventional general thundered forth most virulent and threatening manifestos against every officer who should defend any of the barrier towns besieged, or assist in inundating the country. Three battalions of British guards, amounting to about 1539 *effective* men, were instantaneously ordered to embark under the command of

* On the 1st of February 1793, *Brissot* read in the convention the report made by the committee of general safety, relative to the political state of FRANCE, respecting England; and on the same day war was declared against Great Britain and Holland.

† This, there are strong reasons to imagine, was the whole force employed by DUMOURIEZ in his invasion of Holland, though he was said to have had on foot, an army composed of 30,000 men.

Such was his policy, that he not only caused reports to be industriously spread of immense augmentation for his army having passed through Antwerp, but took also especial care, that the newspapers giving accounts of those exaggerated numbers, were circulated by means of his spies and agents, amongst the credulous inhabitants of the united provinces.

the Duke of York, with the utmost expedition*. The noble manner in which they pushed forwards as volunteers, when his Royal Highness addressed them on the parade in St. James's Park, afforded a striking instance of their loyalty, zeal, and courage; and though they formed but a *small body*, their countrymen, contemplated their behaviour with satisfaction, as affording a sample of that national spirit, which has been so strikingly conspicuous in all the actions of the British troops employed upon the continent.

* The royal assent was obtained for the embarkation of a detachment from the Brigade of Foot-Guards, about one o'clock on Wednesday the 20th of February, 1793; and the Duke of York having ordered the seven Battalions to parade in St. James's Park, informed them it was his Majesty's pleasure, that three Battalions should go upon foreign service, and that consequently many men would be wanted from the second Battalions to complete the first. His Royal Highness added, that he did not wish to have any of them drafted, but desired such as were willing to serve, under his immediate command, would turn out *volunteers*; the whole Brigade, *to a man*, immediately advanced with a regular step.

A

S K E T C H

OF THE

CAMPAIGN OF 1793.

LETTER I.

At Anchor, off HELVOETSLUYS, March 1, 1793.

*Containing an Account of the memorable March to Greenwich, and the tedious
Voyage to Helvoetsluys.*

OF my supper, so lately in Devonshire trick'd,
Torn away from my friends, and my pullet half pick'd;
Scarce suffer'd to bid them a parting adieu!*
By the help of four horses to London I flew,
And hasten'd to join the brigade in the park,
Assembling tow'ards Greenwich to march, and embark.
Had you witness'd the scene, you'd have thought, I am
sure,
Of HOGARTH's, this march was a caricature. [gin,
Prim'd with WHITBREAD's entire, and their bosom-friend
By dribblets our men join'd their squads, to fall in;

* When his Majesty was reluctantly prevailed upon to give his consent, that a detachment of the foot guards should be employed for the defence of Holland, the orders for the embarkation of the three first battalions, were so suddenly issued, that many officers who had been employed on the recruiting service in the country, with difficulty reached London in time to march with the brigade to Greenwich, on the 25th of February, and others were obliged to follow the transports in packets and bye boats to Helvoetsluys.

As JOHN BULL to be idle soon finds a pretence,
 Not GORDON himself gather'd crowds so immense.
 In Parliament-street scarce a window was down,
 And the mob rush'd in throngs from all parts of the town.
 All smoothly went on in the front of our line,
 But the rear, Gods! what pencil has pow'r to define?
 Not a single pot-alehouse escap'd an assault,
 And our men to the dregs drain'd each barrel of malt.
 Supported between two battalion-men here,
 Hissing hot from the bung reel'd a tall grenadier.
 Two damsels attending, his armour to bear,
 As drunk as the staggering hero, were there;
 His cross belts and pouch the fair Phillida bore,
 While his cap Amaryllis triumphantly wore!
 Our march interrupted by whiskeys and gigs,
 Mad drivers, mad oxen, and obstinate pigs;
 Men boxing, dogs barking, and women in tears,
 Harsh concert that threaten'd the drums of our ears.
 Midst a bustle, dear RICHARD, beyond all compare,
 At length we arriv'd at the Hospital-square;
 Carts following, to pick up those stragglers they found,
 Who, unable to move, had repos'd on the ground.
 Our Sov'reign, God blefs him! belov'd and rever'd,
 Benignantly smiling, amongst us appear'd.
 Around him*, those patterns of excellence shone,
 Those jewels, that lustre reflect on his throne.

* The affability and condescension which at all times so peculiarly distinguish the Royal Family of Great-Britain, were never more conspicuously displayed than on this occasion, and as the battalions passed them in review, every soldier's countenance became exhilarated. The Queen and Princesses who were at Sir HUGH PALLISER'S during the

A grenadier drunk, from the centre rank reel'd,
 And hiccuping, up to his Majesty wheel'd,
 "Never mind all these Jacobins, G—E, rest in quiet,
 We'll quell them my Hearty! as quick as a riot,"
 The King was delighted, and laughed out aloud;
 While the fellow was hail'd by three cheers from the
 The transports in readiness waiting in sight, [crowd:
 Ev'ry soldier* was promptly embark'd before night.
 Off Greenwich, till morning, at anchor we lay,
 Then a breeze springing up, we were soon under weight†,
 And tofs'd by rude waves for three nights at the Nore,
 All grumbling, and all too impatient for shore.
 Then signals were made, and each ship hoisted sail‡,
 With a gathering sky, and rising brisk gale.
 As our vessel was steadily gliding along,
 I stole to the stern from the noisy gay throng;
 And as the lov'd island escap'd from my view,
 I sigh'd to thy cliffs, fairest Albion! adieu!
 Adieu, that sad word brought with force to my mind,
 The many dear friends I was leaving behind.
 Ah, tell me what business have soldiers to feel?
 Our hearts, like our swords, should be temper'd with steel;

embarkation, waved their handkerchiefs as the boats put off from shore;
 and in return, after repeated hearty huzzas, the men struck up a roaring
 chorus of God save the King, in which they were joined by the Royal
 Group; this circumstance was frequently talked over in the soldier's tent,
 and not forgotten in the field of battle.

* Only one accident happened during the embarkation. A private
 broke his leg in ascending the side of one of the transports, and such
 had been the hurry of the preparations, that not a single medicine chest
 was found on board any one of the vessels; it was therefore long before
 the least assistance could possibly be given to the poor fellow. "Some-
 where there was a fault."

† Tuesday morning, about 11 o'clock, Feb. 26.

‡ Thursday evening, Feb. 28.

And the instant we're call'd to the blood-bestain'd field,
 Sensibility should to dull apathy yield.
 At Aurora's first dawn, the near shore we perceiv'd,
 And in sight of the transports the pilot boats heav'd.
 The Dutchmen more active* than commonly thought,
 Leap'd on deck, and the harbour we eagerly fought,
 In hopes to have landed; but out of all luck,
 Our vessel full drive on a sand-bank had struck.
 The pilot just then stuck a pipe in his face,
 His hands in his pockets had found a snug place;
 When the Captain roar'd out, in a voice loud as thunder,
 A few gentle curses at poor Mynheer's blunder.
 By a shake and a kick he was rous'd from his trance,
 And prevail'd on at length to the helm to advance;
 But, alas! to no purpose, for steady as fate,
 The tide turning prov'd our exertions too late.
 A biscuit with ease could be toss'd to the shore,
 And the packets pop in, and pop out, by the score:
 Whilst beating about, tho' releas'd from the sand,
 We're unable as yet to approach near the land.
 Our stay, as we learn, will at Helvoet be short;
 The first and the grenadiers, march on to Dort;
 The third to the Brielle. Thus were station'd, and when
 We arrive, my dear RICHARD, I'll write you again:
 A boat that is order'd for messes ashore,
 Is detain'd for this letter, aloft see each oar;
 So I've barely a moment to scribble farewell,
 Nor half my good wishes am able to tell.

* The pilots have a particular knack of boarding a vessel. Approach-
 ing as near as possible, they catch at a rope thrown out to them by the
 sailors, and swing themselves on deck with great agility, even when the
 sea runs high.

LETTER II.

HELVOETSLUYS, March 5, 1793.

A joyful Enlargement, or general Gaol Delivery—Remarks on the Zeal displayed by our good and faithful Allies—An Account of the Battle of Nerwinden.

TERRA FIRMA* at length, thank my stars! we have gain'd,
And our raptures, believe me, can scarce be explain'd.
With more transport the breast of a debtor ne'er heav'd,
From straw and his fourpence per diem reliev'd,
Than ours when we shook all our friends by the hand,
As they joyfully leap'd from the decks on dry land†.
The skippers and frows flock'd in crowds to the pier,
And vacantly star'd as the vessels drew near.
Their zeal in the cause they *most clearly* display'd,
For each hat was adorn'd with the *Orange Cockade*;
But our faithful Allies! are so lukewarm a set,
We shall live to be heartily tir'd of them yet;
And to judge by the sneer on his countenance painted,
Mynheer, at the core, with sedition is tainted:

* The brigade fortunately landed at Helvoetsluys, on Monday, March 4, 1793; the next day violent gales of wind sprang up, which must inevitably have dispersed the whole fleet of transports, and a decided storm ensued, in which they would most probably have perished.

† This will easily be conceived by those who have been in *small transports*, in the construction of which, it must be allowed, accommodation has been but little attended to, those on board of which the first detachment from the brigade of guards was embarked, were peculiarly uncomfortable; the men were stowed in the holds in such numbers, that one third of them were constantly obliged to keep on deck of nights, to afford the others space sufficient to breathe in freely; and the officers (though their situation is by no means of so much consequence, as they can command a thousand little comforts beyond the reach of the private soldier) had only one small cabin in each vessel amongst about seven of them, on the floor of which they lay every night in their clothes closely wedged together.

The numbers of ships* we find snug in dry dock,
 The feelings of true hearted Britons must shock;
 For their treach'ry you'll grant me appears rather rank,
 When *our Tars* own they fought, off the fam'd Dogger-
 bank.

Breda and Gertruydenberg both are possess'd
 By the French, and they Williamstadt closely invest;
 But BOETSLAAR will keep his gates barr'd to the last,
 And quick tho' they fire, will return it as fast;
 DUMOURIEZ, his canvass, depend on't must strike,
 And move in quick time from his post at Moordykett.

* After hostilities had commenced avowedly to protect our Allies the Dutch, we naturally expected to have found them zealous and hearty in the cause; but when the guards landed at Helvoetsluys, had it not been for the roaring of artillery, which was distinctly heard while Williamstadt was bombarded, a stranger must naturally have supposed, from the lethargic slumbers in which the inhabitants appeared to have been plunged, that they were enjoying a profound peace. In the dock-yard, which was filled with all kinds of naval stores, and vessels of various descriptions, several ships of war, seven of them carrying 74 guns each, were laid up without the least preparation appearing to equip them for service; on the contrary, there were scarcely ever seen in the yard, more men than were absolutely necessary to keep watch over the stores, and now and then a few builders at work, when a merchantman occasionally put into repair. The inhabitants apathetically replied, to the questions put to them relative to the ships of war, that they were laid up in a dock, because they could not procure sailors to man them.

If we look back to that period, when they were at war with, and fought us so obstinately, we perceive them uniformly making the greatest exertions, in expeditiously fitting out the most formidable fleets; and it was obvious, that their *inertion* proceeded in the present instance entirely from their aversion to the cause. This opinion is not drawn from what passed in a town, so apparently insignificant as Helvoetsluys; but from repeated examples of the same disaffection being equally prevalent through the whole of the United Provinces. Amsterdam abounded in *Patriots* (as those men inimical to the Orange Family were called) Rotterdam had its share, Dort was over-run with them, and scarcely a single town was totally exempt.

†DUMOURIEZ was stationed at the Moordyke, having fixed upon that as the most central situation, while he carried on his different opera-

This great little hero! has surely achiev'd
 Such wonderful feats as can scarce be believ'd.
 Yet we've toss'd him a hard bitter crust now to mumble,
 And you'll find from his saddle he'll speedily tumble.
 Our state of defence here appears very fair,
 And the fortification's in decent repair.
 Frigates moor'd near the town guard 'the port, and
 no doubt
 Will soon make his Sans Culotte Friends face about,

tions.—As well as Breda and Gertruydenburg, the small fort of Klundert had fallen into his hands, the possession of which enabled him to open batteries immediately upon Williamstadt, a place of no great strength, if we speak of its works, but capable of making a respectable defence, as it is accessible only on the side of Klundert, being protected by the river Maes towards Dort, Rotterdam, and Bergenopzoom. The mouth of the Scheldt was well guarded, and the Dutch were therefore enabled to relieve their men at pleasure, to throw in succours, and to annoy the besiegers by means of gun-boats, whenever they attempted to make their approaches; while the tremendous fire kept up incessantly from the ramparts of the place, convinced the Hero of Jémappe, that he would not experience the same minute attention to his manifestos from the Governor of Williamstadt, as he had before met with from those of Breda and Gertruydenburg.

DUMOURIEZ's scheme of penetrating into Holland by the Moordyke, was certainly well planned; and had *Valence*, who was privy to his intended operations, kept his position on *the Roer*, instead of indulging in winter quarters at Liege, when he might have expected the Austrians would attempt the passage of the river, it might possibly have succeeded. DUMOURIEZ held out to the Convention, he tells us, in his Memoirs, that his intention was to make an attempt upon *Zeeland*, while his real determination was to advance with a body of troops posted at *Moordyke*, and *masking* BREDA and GERTRUYDENBERG *on the right*, and BERGENOP-ZOOM, STEENBERG, KLUNDERT, and WILLIAMSTADT *on the left*, effect a passage over the *Bies Bos* to DORT, where being once disembarked, he would have found himself in the *very heart* of HOLLAND, and could easily have advanced to AMSTERDAM, by the way of ROTTERDAM, DELFT, LEYDEN, and *Haarlem*; and then proceeding by *Utrecht*, could have reached Nimeguen, where VALENCE, with a force consisting of 20,000 men, was to have joined him, while MIRANDA continued the sieges of MAESTRICHT and of VENLO.

If they dare to approach, but too crafty for that,
 The Carmagnols know where to smell out a rat.
 This moment our route has, I find, been receiv'd,
 And to packing I haste, as to night we're reliev'd*.
 In Schuyts we shall punt up to Dort; mes adieus,
 Then accept, and when landed, my theme I'll renew.

As the *reconquest* of the Netherlands, the delivery of Holland, and in fact as all the brilliant successes that crowned the arms of the allies at the commencement of the campaign of 1793, were in a great measure in consequence of the victory gained by Prince COBOURG at *Nerwinden*, it seems absolutely necessary to give some account of the operations which brought on that general and decisive engagement, before the fruitless endeavours of the besieging army to reduce Williamstadt are further noticed.

CLAIRFAIT had advanced from his cantonments on the night of the 28th of February, and passing the *Roer* on the 29th, took possession of *Aldenhoven*: on the 2d of March he repulsed the French army, under the command

* Part of the 3d regiment from the Brielle relieved by the Coldstream at Helvoet at midnight, on the 5th of March, when the latter proceeded in *schuyts*, (vessels somewhat similar to the English coal barges, or west country boats, in which troops and baggage are usually conveyed through Holland with much expedition, as when the wind does not permit them to sail they can be towed by horses) to join the main body of the guards under Major General LAKE at the island of Dortrecht, where it was apprehended the enemy might attempt a landing, as the inhabitants were known to be extremely opulent, and had the character of befriending the French system. The States General had an army on foot amounting to about 30,000 men, composed of Germans and Swiss, in their pay, as well as of native troops, and Prince FREDERICK of Brunswick was expected to advance from his position behind the Maas with 10,000 to co-operate with them.

of Gen. MIRANDA, at *Geylenkirchen*, between JULIERS and MAESTRICHT. This business, which lasted only a few hours, was attended with the most brilliant success on the side of the Austrians. The French are stated to have lost in killed, wounded, and missing, above 2,000 men, 12 pieces of cannon, and several ammunition waggons. A complete victory was also gained on the following day, near Aix la Chappelle, by Prince COBOURG, over the grand Republican army under Gen. VALENCE, which was driven back upon Liege with considerable slaughter; above 1,500 prisoners, and 20 pieces of cannon, fell into the hands of the conquerors, while Prince FREDERICK of Brunswick, the same day, carried the formidable batteries constructed at *Zwalme* on the *Meuse*; pursuing the enemy to Brugge, he took 700 prisoners, and advanced towards *Ruremonde*, which place was also given up upon his first appearance before it, its fall, enabling him to push forwards towards Bois le Duc. Thus gloriously was opened the campaign of 1793, on the side of the allies in every direction, and almost precisely at the same moment. Maestricht and Venlo had been bombarded severely for ten days, and both places were fortunately relieved by the rapid advance of Prince COBOURG, and by his vigorous attacks upon the covering armies.

The details of these events, given in the National Convention at that period, were extremely curious, and are well worthy of being noticed, though indeed it was then their common practice to point out their defeats to the nation through the small end of the telescope, which they reversed with a juggler's celerity, to magnify every trifling advantage gained by the republic, into a decisive victory.

In the sitting of March 5, a letter from the Belgic *commissioners*, dated the 3d, at Liege, was read, stating that Gen. VALENCE, finding the van of his army too closely pressed by the allies, had thought it prudent, as many of his *officers* were absent, to evacuate Aix la Chappelle, and to entrench himself at Herve; not a word was then said of the loss he had sustained, nor was any engagement mentioned to have taken place. BOURNONVILLE, the war minister, in a hasty note to the president, stated the affair to be of little consequence, and Miranda to have only suspended the Bombardment of MAESTRICHT. On the following day, however, it was thought prudent to touch slightly upon the bad news that must have been very soon in circulation, and St. ANDRE observed that the committee of general safety had obtained intelligence from Belgia of *rather* an unpleasant nature. *Carra*, another member, immediately attributed it to treachery, and Gen. STENGEL, a German, in their service, who commanded the avant garde of VALENCE's army, was denounced; but even then BOURNONVILLE declared that he had received intelligence from DUMOURIEZ, that the French had not lost, in the retreat from Aix la Chappelle, above 5 or 6 men.

On the 4th of March, Prince COBOURG again advanced upon VALENCE, and after driving him from his entrenchments at Herve, took Liege, with scarce any loss, pushing his advanced posts some miles beyond that place, as he met with scarce any resistance. These affairs, however, can only be regarded as skirmishes, previous to the general engagement, which, as might naturally have been expected from the proximity of the hostile armies, soon after took place. The forces of Generals VALENCE and Mi-

RANDA had been consolidated, and DUMOURIEZ placed himself at their head, mustering, according to his own statements, only 42,000 men. The Imperialists under Prince COBOURG and Gen. CLAIRFAIT, were said to have been about 50,000 strong; but it was generally imagined, that the disparity was much greater than the French General thus makes it out, and with this difference, that the Republicans had the advantage in point of numbers; for DUMOURIEZ's army was always reckoned by the *Austrians* to have been composed of 70,000 effective men at least.

CLAIRFAIT made himself master of Tirelemont on the 15th of March, and the following day the van of his army fell in with a considerable body of the enemy near that place; an engagement ensued, in which the Austrians received a serious check, and were obliged to fall back with some loss; the 17th was a day of rest, and passed in reconnoitering on both sides; but early on the morning of the 18th, the memorable action of Nerwinden took place. The attack was made by the French, after they had effected the passage of the river Gette with their usual impetuosity, and sustained by the Austrians with their usual firmness. Victory for a long time hovered over the field doubtful on which side to settle. DUMOURIEZ had stationed his army in a very advantageous position; and placing himself at the head of his right wing, completely succeeded in turning Prince COBOURG's* left. His troops however being unsteady, he was unable to fol-

* The ground occupied by the Imperialists, (between Fongus, St. Tron, and Landen) resembled an Amphitheatre, rising from the river Gette to the heights of Landen and St. Tron.

low up the advantage thus gained; and the Austrian Cavalry, forming a Corps de Reserve under Gen. CLAIRFAIT, coming up in the evening, decided the fortune of the day. The French were panic struck, and retreated precipitately in every direction, abandoning 30 pieces of cannon, and leaving immense heaps of their men dead upon the field of battle.

Gen. MIRANDA, who commanded the left wing of DUMOURIEZ's army, appears to have been deceived at the first onset, by a feint retreat of the Austrian right, which suddenly rallied, and attacking him with vigour, obliged him to fall back in the utmost confusion. The centre and right, animated by the presence of DUMOURIEZ, continued firm till the evening, when, upon CLAIRFAIT's advancing, they followed the example of the left wing, and were pursued and cut up severely by the Austrian Hussars.

This victory however cost the Imperialists above 1200 men at the commencement of the engagement, which was very unfavourable to them. Various statements have been given of the loss of the Republicans, differing so widely as from 2000 to 6000 in killed; but their losses cannot possibly be exactly ascertained, as no General was ever yet known to have the dead bodies counted after an engagement, and the French at all times carefully conceal the numbers that fall on their side. Fresh *Volunteers*, forcibly taken from trimming their vines, are sent to fill up gaps, or, in their own words, to re-organize their armies; the military bands receive them with *ça ira*, and they are taught by their comrades to dance away care and reflection to the tune of the *Carmagnol*. Intoxicated before an engagement; with liberty in their mouths, and the

fumes of geneva in their heads, they rush on to destruction, while the best troops are carefully kept in the rear, and brought up after these enthusiastic drunkards have repeatedly annoyed their opponents, and fatigued themselves by their impetuous and reiterated attacks.

The battle of Nerwinden however lasted from day-break till six o'clock in the evening, and as every inch of ground was obstinately disputed, it is evident that much blood must have been spilt *on both sides*. DUMOURIEZ retreated towards Louvain, and on the 22d, CLAIRFAIT made another attack upon his army, when an obstinate engagement took place at *Neerwelve*, and the French General was again defeated, though his men fought desperately, and made such vigorous efforts to retain their position, that the victory was purchased *dearly* by the Austrians, who had 700 men killed upon the spot. The Republicans then retreated behind the river Dyle, and took post on the formidable *Montagne de Fer*, between Louvain and Brussels, whence they also were speedily driven, being dispirited and unable to make any further resistance. They soon after precipitately abandoned Brussels, which place Prince COBOURG immediately entered, to the great joy of the inhabitants, as they had been pillaged and dreadfully treated by their Republican Masters, who then retired to Halle, evacuating Antwerp, Malines, Mons, and what was of infinite advantage to the British forces, OSTEND, filing off in two divisions towards *Ath*; where DUMOURIEZ collected the remains of his shattered army, fixing his head-quarters at Tournay.

DUMOURIEZ, in his Memoirs, gives us a long detailed account of the battle of Nerwinden, tending to prove his

own manœuvres to have been excellent, and attributing his defeat to the treachery and cowardice of MIRANDA*. That General, he avers, through a personal pique to VALENCE†, drew off his two columns, forming the left wing of the grand army, two leagues distant from the scene of action, exposing the right and centre to the whole weight of the Imperialists. He also accuses the Austrian Generals of having committed some egregious errors‡; but though an able General, DUMOURIEZ is a determined *Egotist*, and all his accounts are given in the gasconading style of his countrymen in the *Senate*.

It appears, however, that he had the address to enter into engagements with Col. MACK, stipulating that his army should be permitted to retreat without further molestation after the evacuation of Brussels; this was unknown to CLAIRFAIT, who fell upon his avant-garde posted at Pellenberg, which brought on the action at Nerwelppe. They were however afterwards faithfully at-

*DUMOURIEZ appears particularly inveterate against MIRANDA, and evinces in his Memoirs, a disposition to throw every possible odium upon that General. Yet MIRANDA certainly proved himself either extremely eloquent, or guarded by the impenetrable breast-plate of conscious innocence, when he was acquitted by the *Revolutionary Tribunal at Paris*.

† VALENCE, it must be remembered, was DUMOURIEZ's particular friend.

‡ In not disputing the passage of the river *Gette*, which divided the two armies, in not falling upon the three columns, forming the right wing under VALENCE, both in front and flank, while marching to the attack; in abandoning the advantageous post of the tomb of *Middlewinden* (which commanded the three villages Oberwinden, Middlewinden, and Nerwinden, as well as a valley separating them from the town of *Landen*) in having neglected to erect a battery upon it previous to the engagement; and *above all*, in not pursuing MIRANDA in his flight, and in not attacking with their right wing the left and centre of the Republicans then engaged in the heat of the battle before *NERWINDEN*.

tended to by Prince COBOURG, who remained three days at Louvain, sending only small detachments to hang upon the rear of the Republicans.

How an experienced officer, like Col. MACK, could have entered into so absurd a treaty* with a dispirited and beaten enemy, is difficult to account for. Had his intelligence been good respecting the situation of DUMOURIEZ's forces, he must have been convinced of the practicability of COBOURG's army cutting off their retreat, and preventing their return to the Frontiers of France; but thus it ever is, too much elated with victory, the greatest Generals are apt to neglect following up the advantages they gain, at the critical moment, when they might render them decisive and brilliant.

* DUMOURIEZ, in his Memoirs, states this stipulation to have become hourly of more importance to him. His army, he says, was greatly diminished, especially in *officers*. He had scarcely ammunition sufficient for a single battle, and he was moreover thoroughly persuaded, that in case of a serious attack, he should have been abandoned by his whole army.

LETTER III.

DORT, March 23, 1793.

Boetslaar's spirited Defence of Williamstadt.—The French raise the Siege precipitately, and abandon their Expedition against Holland entirely.

TO our enemies now, we've drawn rapidly near,
And should Williamstadt fall, they'll soon visit us here.
As yet the brave garrison holds them at bay,
And must force them, crest fall'n, to sneak tamely away.
Their reception was warm, as they well might expect,
And our gun-boats have all had the wish'd-for effect.
An unfortunate shot, sorrow dictates the lay,
In an instant, each semblance of life tore away,
From a gallant young tar*! yet so nobly to die,
Takes the sting from affliction, and softens its sigh;
While the fire from the ramparts † De Flers has annoy'd,
Not a house in the place, as we're told, is destroy'd.

* The additional gun-boats which had been built at Rotterdam were dispatched to join Admiral KINSBERGEN's fleet, and half of them mounting British colours, were manned by English sailors under the command of Capt. BARCKLEY. These boats were constantly employed, and had all the effect that could have been possibly expected from them, by preventing the besiegers from making any very near approaches. The British tars had on that duty many opportunities of evincing that undaunted courage, for which they have ever been so deservedly famed. His countrymen had to lament the loss of a very valuable and spirited officer in Lieut. WESTERN of the *Syren* Frigate who fell on the 21st of March; he was shot through the heart by a cannon-ball, whilst in the act of pointing the gun of his boat against the enemy's works.

† Before DUMOURIEZ left the Republican army in Holland, to put himself at the head of that of the North, then stationed near LOUVAIN, he

Our arrival by BOETSLAAR was duly announc'd*,
 And the French may expect to be handsomely trounc'd.
 Rous'd of late from our mews by a brisk cannonade,
 (As it seem'd to our young inexperience'd brigade,)
 We, turning out manfully, thought to have found
 The foe with our picquets, disputing the ground.
 But perceiv'd it was linseed some oil mills had pounded,
 Till the harsh noise produc'd, loud as cannon resounded.

made a very desperate attempt to enter Williamstadt by a *Coup de Main*, and taking advantage of a dark night, advanced silently along the Dyke with a large body of chosen troops. This detachment however, being fortunately discovered by the frigates stationed in the *Maes*, they suffered them to approach within reach of their guns, and then commenced a brisk and tremendous fire with grape shot; and the artillery from the ramparts of the place opening upon them at the same moment, the Republicans were driven back with considerable slaughter. It has been already stated that Williamstadt was alone affailable by a narrow neck of land near Klündert; there, the besiegers attempted to erect two batteries within 200 toises of the place; but the garrison perceiving their intention made a vigorous sortie, and destroying the works before they were completed, killed the two engineers employed to construct them, and pursued their enemies, who fled upon their first approach, driving them beyond their former position. Being foiled in these attempts, and called upon loudly to repair to the army of Valence, DUMOURIEZ left Gen. DE FLERS with the command of the French army in Holland; directing him to continue the siege, and, if possible, to effect a landing on the island of *Dort*; determined to prosecute his darling enterprise, if successful in checking the formidable progress of the Imperialists.

* Strong picquets were posted along the shore of the island of *Dort*, whence frequent supplies of ammunition were conveyed to Williamstadt by a party of the guards, as a communication by the Scheldt was preserved. The Dutch uniform being *Blue lined with Scarlet*, Gen. BOETSLAAR, soon after the arrival of the British troops, ordered his garrison to turn their coats inside out, and to put their accoutrements over them. Thus equipped they were paraded on the ramparts with the party of the guards in front, and within sight of the besiegers. By this stratagem the enemy imagined the Governor had received a reinforcement of English soldiers, and it was said at the time that it accelerated the retreat of the besiegers.

You'll laugh at our blunder, and laugh if you will,
We shall know, in good time, a French gun from a mill.

A Williamstadt courier reports the siege* rais'd,
And BOETSLAAR most highly and justly is prais'd;
His defence must the veteran endear to mankind,
Nor his country ungrateful to merit we find;

* The States General decreed a very handsome pension to General BOETSLAAR and his family, for his gallant and spirited defence of Williamstadt.

Prince FREDERICK of BRUNSWICK having at this period reached the vicinity of Bois le Duc, the situation of the French became extremely critical; Gen. DE FLERS therefore on the 23d of March ordered Berneron who commanded the army besieging Williamstadt to raise the siege, and to retreat towards ANTWERP, throwing himself, with about 5,000 men, into BREDa, while Col. Tilli entered Gertruydenberg with about half the number of infantry, and a small detachment of horse. Thus ended the invasion of Holland, wherein the Republicans must have suffered very severely, though Dumouriez had the *impudence* to assert in his Memoirs, that the expedition did not cost France a *single soldier*. Without he means to be understood as speaking contemptuously of his army, and wishes us to infer from his remarks, that it was composed of men unworthy of that honourable name; he has certainly committed himself most strangely, for the beach under the walls of Williamstadt was strewed with the bodies of Frenchmen who had fallen before the place, and the writer of this narrative *himself saw* numbers of them laying there after the siege had been raised, before the Dutch had leisure to inter them. We may fairly venture to state his loss at 1000 men killed.

The French batteries at Moordyke were evacuated without loss, as the Dutch troops were not aware of the very precipitate retreat of their enemies; preparations were then immediately made by the hereditary Prince of ORANGE, to reoccupy the fortresses of Gertruydenberg and Breda, when Gen. DE FLERS, offering to surrender upon terms, was permitted to march out with the honours of war, and return to the interior of France, giving up the *Batavians*, composing a part of his garrison, as prisoners of war. BREDa was evacuated on the 22d of April, the last place the enemy possessed in Holland, Gertruydenberg having previously surrendered upon the same terms. The 3d Regiment of Guards was relieved by the 14th Regiment of Infantry, which had been sent to encrease the British forces in Holland, and the whole brigade, excepting three companies of the 3d Regiment, embarked in *Schuyts* the

For our speedy advance preparations are made,
 And the third has been order'd to join the brigade.
 As it's long since the troops to relieve them set fail,
 Of their landing to hear, we expect ev'ry mail.
 That I'm your's most sincerely, dear RICHARD, believe,
 And from Devon, good news may I shortly receive.

1st of April, and landed the same day at Bergenopzoom, and the division left at Dort, having been relieved by a Swiss Regiment in the pay of Holland, followed on the 7th.

Victory appeared, at this period, to heap her Favors with a lavish hand on the coalesced armies in every direction. The Prussians had succeeded in passing the Rhine near Oppenheim on the 27th of March, though opposed by *Custine*, who had advanced with a corps of 12,000 men, for that purpose. Oppenheim, Worms, and Spires, fell rapidly into their hands, and Gen. WURMSUR, with 12,000 Austrians, having effected the passage of the river at Carlsrich, and repulsed a body of the enemy of nearly equal strength on the opposite side, pushed on to form the investiture of LANDAU, while Prince HOHENLOE, after repeated skirmishes, in which he was invariably successful, surrounded Mayence, (or Mentz) with 30,000 men, forming a besieging army under COUNT KALRUITH. It was at this time generally understood that a large army of Russians would be sent to co-operate with the allies, but the Empress, as well as his Majesty of Prussia, being wholly intent on the participation of Poland, paid but little attention to the *common cause*, and though FREDERICK was frequently seen at the Prussian head-quarters, it was evident he thought much more of *Kosciuski* than of CUSTINE, or more spirited measures would undoubtedly have been adopted to have chased the Republicans beyond their lines, at a moment when they were so dispirited by a series of defeats in every quarter.

Though CUSTINE had taken up some very advantageous positions, having possession of the heights of Weissemberg, and the formidable lines which extending from thence to Lautenberg, protected Hageneau, and Strasbourg, and had also posted HOUGHARD with 10,000 men, so as to cover the duchy of *Deux Ponts*; he was certainly apprehensive of the event in case of an attack, as he wrote to the convention, requesting permission to resign his command, and stating his army to have been so much reduced, that out of 50,000 men he had brought into the field at the commencement of the campaign, only 36,000 then remained to oppose above 80,000 of the allies. The French general was however certainly misinformed of the strength of the allied armies on the Rhine, they never mustered in their most formidable state, above 90,000 men, of which number 30,000 were furnished by Austria, and 4,000 by the Prince of Hesse Darmstadt; deducting therefore the troops investing Mayence, and those destined for the siege of Landau, there could not possibly remain above 48,000 to contend with CUSTINE.

LETTER IV.

Dumouriez' flight.—Determination of the Congress at Antwerp.—Advance to Flanders. Cobourg's Manifestos.—Renewal of Hostilities.—Position of the Allies.—Attacks of the 1st and 2d May.—Their Consequences.

YOUR opinion, dear RICHARD, *veer'd widely* from mine,
When you said that our views we should scarcely confine,
Our *valiant* and *faithful* ALLIES to defend;
But to judgment *superior*, submissive I bend.
To his strong camp at Maulde*, when DUMOURIEZ had fled,
And found that the Jacobins threaten'd his head;

* Upon DUMOURIEZ retreating from the neighbourhood of Tournay on the 30th of March to the camp of Maulde near St. Amand, avowedly one of the strongest positions in Flanders, Prince COBOURG advanced his head-quarters to Mons; the French army of the north was then so much decreased, that till joined by the late garrisons of Breda and Gertruydenberg (exclusive of the garrisons of Valenciennes, Condé, Maubeuge, &c.), it barely amounted to 8,000 men. That formidable position could however have been easily defended, even by so trifling a force against any numbers likely to have been brought against it. Commissioners from the convention, had frequently made their appearance in the camp, and DUMOURIEZ plainly perceived that his arrest had been a measure decided upon from the moment of his defeat at Nerwinden, and aware that denunciation was become, by the order of the day, the forerunner and certain road to the guillotine, he determined to disappoint the hopes of his enemies, and to march his whole army to Paris to overturn the Jacobin faction.

Though his treachery against the republic cannot possibly be denied, when we allow him to have entered into engagements to deliver Lille and Valenciennes into the hands of Prince COBOURG, it must be evident to every unprejudiced man, who considers the subject; that the ingratitude, of his countrymen was the first and chief reason of his deserting their cause: Self defence being certainly admitted as the first principle of nature, for even

The worm, when trod upon, erects its crest,
And in defiance curls its stinging tail.

Had DUMOURIEZ arrived at the *pinch* of the revolution, as his countrymen gasconadingly term it, to have sustained the character of a Re-

The convention declaring how charm'd they should be,
 If he'd march with their deputies back a *Paris*.
 This sharp-sighted hero for some nights had seen
 In his dreams, a tremendous and bloody machine,
 And started, exclaiming aloud, "*Guillotine*."
 So he sent the commissioners* under arrest,
 To the Austrian encampment, and stood forth confess'd,
 A friend to their cause, undertaking to bring
 His army to publish young LOUIS their king :

publican hero, he ought willingly to have devoted himself to death, rather than have betrayed the trust reposed in him by the convention ; considering him however as a *mere man*, and one too who from principle was averse to the ruling faction at Paris, we cannot wonder when he perceived 200,000 swords ready to be drawn in his defence, that he should not only take measures to preserve his own life, but to punish those sanguinary wretches who were so eagerly thirsting for his blood. His plan failing in the first instance when he endeavoured to gain over FERRAND, the Governor of Valenciennes, to his side, he meant to have taken possession of Condé, well assured that *Nuillie* the commandant, was in his interest ; while the Austrians blockaded Lille and Valenciennes, and depending upon the unanimity of his army, to proceed immediately to the capital, in conjunction with Prince COBOURG.

* The eyes of all Europe were fixed upon DUMOURIEZ with awful expectation at *that* moment, as it was naturally imagined that the influence of so favourite a general over his soldiers would have induced them to adopt any measures he might propose, however desperate, rather than stand by, and tamely suffer him to be dragged from before their eyes to the scaffold, after having so frequently led them on to victory. In the mean time CAMUS, LA MARQUE, CUNETTE, and HENRI VEAUVEL, with BOURNONVILLE the war minister, were deputed by the jacobins to conduct the French general in chief to the bar of the convention, with orders, as it was said, to have him assassinated in case of resistance, for which purpose troops were placed in the road by which he was to pass to Paris. Having long foreseen this event, he was fully prepared in what manner to act, and upon their attempting to secure his person, and place their seals upon his papers, he order'd 50 chosen Hussars, whom he had previously posted within call, to escort them to Tournay, and to deliver them immediately into the hands of Gen. CLAIRFAIT.

And instantly mounting the modest cockade,
The pow'r of his rhet'rick * the champion essay'd.

* DUMOURIEZ' plan now became ripe for execution, and having appointed a meeting with Colonel MACK, for finally determining upon the terms of their treaty; on the 3d of April he addressed his army at the *camp of Maulde*, and then found that they highly approved of his having arrested the commissioners, and that they even evinced a disposition favourable to his wishes, and such as induced him to imagine they would follow, wherever he led the way. On the 4th however when he was proceeding to Condé for the same purpose, he fell in with a column of his own troops marching *thence* from *Valenciennes*, and surprised at this unexpected movement for which he had given no orders, he advanced to question them but perceiving the soldiers at the head of the column approaching with threatening language, he instantly galloped, with wonderful presence of mind, towards a broad ditch, over which, his charger refusing to leap, he was obliged to scramble on foot, and mounting a horse belonging to a servant of the *Duc de Chartres*, who had attended him, very narrowly escaped with his life through a brisk fire of small arms, which, in their pursuit, the French troops kept up, incessantly, till he crossed a branch of the river Scheldt, and gained a village in possession of the Austrians.

He returned, however, the next day, to the camp at Maulde, and was received with *apparent joy* by his troops; unfortunately for DUMOURIEZ Prince COBOURG's first declaration was then published, stating his intentions to co-operate with the French general, and to assist him, if necessary, with his *whole army*, to restore to France the happiness of a constitution, and to the rest of Europe, peace and tranquillity. I further declare, adds the Imperial General, upon my word and honor, that should the military operations require one or more fortresses to be given up to my troops, I will keep them merely as a sacred trust, and I engage, in the most express and positive terms, to restore them, as soon as a government shall be established in France, or the brave general, with whom I am about to make a common cause, shall demand of me such a concession. This declaration was signed at Mons, on the 5th of April, and upon its appearance in the camp of Maulde, the cannoners began to murmur, and soon after *drew off their guns* towards Valenciennes, the national volunteers following their example, branded their general with the name of traitor to his country, and the whole camp was thrown into confusion, it therefore became absolutely necessary for DUMOURIEZ to attend to his immediate safety, and, accompanied alone by Generals THOUVENOT, VALENCE, the Duc de CHARTRES, and the officers of his staff he sought a shelter from the rage of his former idolaters in CLAIRFAIT's head quarters at Tournay. Such were the causes of, and the circumstances attending the French

To his florid narration the answer receiv'd
 Was, " VIVE DUMOURIEZ!" Sounds he fondly believ'd,
 To have sprang from the heart, yet, too soon to his cost,
 Experienc'd his influence was totally lost.

And perceiving them eager his life to obtain,
 Without looking back he scower'd over the plain.

A congress at Antwerp* then met, which decreed,
 Fair Belgium to conquer our troops should proceed,
 And offensively act as occasion requir'd;

Ev'ry bosom, believe me, with ardour was fir'd,
 Which before with suspense and uncertainty pain'd,
 Truly anxious at Bergenopzoom had remain'd.

general's flight: the philanthropist, when he considers the effusion of human blood that has since deluged the earth, and which would have been undoubtedly spared, had DUMOURIEZ' plan succeeded, will lament its failure, while he detests his treachery, and the true patriot must naturally wish that it had never been attempted, as it assisted the diabolical schemes of the rulers of the convention, and the people of France became from that moment more united and more bigotted to their new principles.

* The advantages that had been gained by the allies in one short month exceeded their most sanguine expectations. Having driven their enemies within their own territories, it was determined that a congress should be held at Antwerp on the 8th of April, to fix upon new arrangements for the future operations of the campaign, and the generals and ministers of the coalesced powers were accordingly summoned to attend it. It was there resolved that vigorous measures should be entered into by every power at war with France, that the garrison towns on the frontiers should be immediately besieged, and, in case of their surrender, that the conventional forces should be blocked up closely by a strong cordon of troops on shore, while the maritime powers should extend their line, and cut off from the country all supplies by sea. Thus hemmed in *on every side*, the Royalists, in the heart of the kingdom were to fight their own battles, and the allied armies to support them as favourable opportunities might offer. Great Britain and her auxiliaries by this treaty consented to advance and join with Austria in her offensive operations.

A place of such strength*, that like Troy it appears,
 Full able a siege to sustain of ten years.
 Tow'rds Antwerp† we then in the schuyts bent our way,
 And safely were landed at Bev'ren next day;
 Where halting three days we all joyously went
 To pay our devoirs to the good folks‡ at Ghent.
 Receiv'd, by the premier noblesse of the place,
 With joy, and a hearty fraternal embrace;

* Bergenopzoom is the compleatest regularly fortified town in Europe. There are casemates sufficient to lodge nearly 20,000 men, which having a sandy foundation, are very dry and healthy. The mines are bricked over and intersect in every direction, branching from the chamber, entirely under the glacis. The magazines for ammunition and provisions are also acknowledged to be *superior* to, and more extensive than those of any other known fortress in Europe; neither can any place in Holland (Nimeguen excepted) boast of the advantage of such excellent water; or of such an abundant supply. By its numerous subterraneous works, which in circumference are said to cover nearly a league (3 English miles) of ground, it is rendered impregnable, and while the Scheldt is open, succour can be thrown in, if necessary, every tide. It was taken by treachery in the year 1747, when the French entered the place, after one of the sally-port doors *had been opened* to them. Two battalions of the Scotch brigade, supported by a *single* battalion of Dutch; (the rest of the garrison having fled precipitately) maintained their ground in the market-place and streets, for nearly four hours, against above 10,000 of their enemies; and after making considerable slaughter, effected their retreat by the Stenburgh port, leaving behind them the greatest part of their officers, and above two thirds of their men killed and wounded. They joined the Dutch army that lay behind the lines contiguous to the fortress, ~~where~~ 13,000 men were then encamped, whom *they naturally expected* would have marched to their assistance. There is a strong fort at the entrance of the harbour, which was maintained by the late Gen. M'LEAN, (then a Lieut. in the Scotch brigade,) and 30 of his brave countrymen, till he had obtained terms to march out with the honours of war, and was permitted to join his regiment which had just fought its way out of the town.

† The brigade left Bergenopzoom the 9th, and landed at Beveren, a small village opposite Antwerp, the 10th of April.

‡ Marched from Beveren the 13th, and arrived at Ghent the 14th,

We too soon bade such friends an unwilling adieu,
 In search of adventures our route to pursue
 Tow'rd's Bruges*, and their raptures we found were
 no less;

For our *Chieftain* they hail'd with a printed address,
 Declaring how honour'd the city had been,
 How greatly rejoic'd in its walls to have seen
 A Brunswick, and something was handsomely said
 Of his valiant attendants in dark blue and red:
 The bells in the steeple rang merrily round!
 And the chimes struck our ears with the heart-cheering
 sound

OF GOD SAVE THE KING!

These teeth outward Loyalists kept us one day,
 Then we march'd on to Tournay†, through Thielt and
 Courtray;

* Embarked for Bruges the 16th, and landed there the 17th of April.

† Marched from Bruges to Thielt the 19th of April; to Courtray the 20th; to Tournay the 23d; to Orcq, near Tournay the 25th.

A second declaration of Prince COBOURG's appeared on the 9th of April, revoking entirely the principles contained in his manifesto of the 5th, and announcing the cessation of the armistice; the contest was accordingly renewed, and the *dogs of war*, more savage from their late restraint, were once again let loose upon the world: from this period the commencement of the campaign may be *most properly* dated on the side of Great Britain. Reinforcements were accordingly ordered to be sent out to the continent, both of cavalry and infantry, and a contingent of 12,000 Hanoverians were on full march to join the Duke of YORK's army; the landgrave of Hesse Cassel had also engaged to furnish a subsidy of 6,000 men, with the necessary artillery for the term of six years. Prince COBOURG, immediately after his second declaration, advanced from his position *before Mons*, to penetrate into the French territories, according to the plan decided upon by the congress at Antwerp. His opponents were then so completely dispersed, that he found the field entirely open to

And halting our men to repose for a while,
 Advanc'd to this village, scarce distant a mile,
 Where canton'd we're most probably doom'd to remain,
 Till with vigour prepar'd to commence the campaign.
 The French in our front, are reported in force,
 And *Alerte* is the word as a matter of course.
 Dismal quarters seem these after Bruges and Ghent,
 But foldiers you know must be ever content,
 Our apartments becharcoal'd with wonderful taste,
 And our windows repair'd with brown paper and paste.
 Who so snug? Tho' each chamber like Crispin's fam'd stall,
 Serves for parlour, for sleeping-room, kitchen and all.

him, and was enabled to advance rapidly upon Condé, which fortress was immediately invested and its communication with the interior cut off, while from the position he had taken up near *Quiévrain*, by extending his line beyond *Bavai*, and occupying the villages on that side of the river *Rhonelle*, he at once threatened *Valenciennes*, and kept an eye upon *Maubeuge*. *CLAIRFAIT*'s position extended from a branch of the *Scheldt* near *Condé*, through the *Forêt de Raismes*, beyond the *Abbaye Viscoine*, his right, there communicating with the left of the Prussians under General *KNOBELSDORF* who was in possession of the ground from *St. Amand* to the camp of *Maulde*. After the flight of *DUMOURIEZ*, the command of the Northern Republican army devolved upon *Gen. DAMPIERRE*, who was extremely active in assembling his forces in the plains of *Famars*, receiving daily, from the interior, considerable augmentations. Frequent skirmishes ensued, but no serious engagement took place till the 1st of *May*, when, with a view to relieve *Condé*, and open the communication between that Fortress and *Valenciennes*, he attacked all the different posts of *Prince COBOURG*'s army at once, and a body of 6,000 men at the same time, sallied forth from *Valenciennes* upon the advanced guard, on the side of the entrenchments, between the villages of *Onaing* and *St. Saulve*. *COBOURG* immediately dispatched a column of 4,000 to their support, and *Count Colledo* proceeded with another of 6,000 to the heights between *Sebourg* and *Etrieux*: finding two lines of the enemy's infantry, of at least double his own strength, before *Saultain* and *Curgies*, he immediately gave them battle, and his troops pointed their artillery so judiciously, and with such effect, that they drove the enemy from the villages, and forced them to retreat within the lines of their

But in palace or hovel I still shall remain

Yours, my friend, and you'll hear from me shortly again.

encampment at Famars. The French were also repulsed at Onaing, and fled precipitately, with a loss, as it was said, of 9 pieces of artillery, 17 ammunition waggons, and of, at least, 500 men, while the Austrians had only 150 killed and wounded. The Republicans, supported by a large train of artillery, had also advanced from their camp at *Anzin* upon CLAIRFAIT's entrenchments at Raismes, and charged them repeatedly, in a very desperate manner; they were, however, entirely routed in the end, and were reported to have left above 1,000 men behind them, dead upon the field of battle. CLAIRFAIT lost nearly 200. An attempt was made on the 1st to dislodge Gen. *La Tour* from his position between *Bavai* and *Maubeuge*; but the Republicans, after driving in his picquets, were obliged to retreat precipitately, and were pursued by the Imperialists to their entrenched camp.

The allies lay upon their arms the whole night, and, as they had expected, at day-break on the 2d, DAMPIERRE still anxious to accomplish his purpose, marched with three formidable columns against the Prussian lines near *St. Amand*. The conflict was long, severe, and bloody; nor was it till CLAIRFAIT detached the regiment of *Starhée*, and the hussars of *Esterhazé* and *Barco* to KNOBELSDORF's assistance, that their enemies gave way, but they then precipitately fled, with a loss of 34 field pieces, and nearly 2,000 men. The Prussians and Austrians however paid most dearly for their victory, as they had, according to their own returns, 1,400 men killed and wounded.

LETTER V.

ORCQ, near TOURNAY, May 13, 1793.

*The Coldstream Guards under a heavy Fire—Their spirited Attacks upon the
Wood of St. Amand—Knobelsdorf plays the old Soldier—Success of the
Allies in every Direction.*

FOR ever be remember'd
The famous eighth of May ;
For Briton's rais'd their Nation's fame
On that most glorious day !

In thy deep Wood, fair St. Amand
Their wily foe they fought,
And, Prussian Generals skirting it,
Well pleas'd, their duty taught.

The Battalion's achievements in St. Amand's Wood,
Would furnish a ballad heroic and good,
One too that would grace ev'ry bookmonger's stall,
And cut no bad figure, pinn'd up to a wall.
But let me with method my story pursue,
For a simple detail will scarce satisfy you ;
The Prussians and Keyzers had reason to fear
That success would attend persevering DAMPIERRE ;
So our Chief thought it right his assistance* to proffer,
And KNOBELSDORF gladly accepted his offer.

* In consequence of DAMPIERRE's reiterated attacks upon the Prussians, the British Guards were kept constantly upon the alert and were frequently under arms, and formed in readiness to march, but till the 7th of May, had not proceeded far from their cantonments at Orcq. The Duke of YORK had that morning visited KNOBELSDORF at St. Amand ; and finding the Prussian General expected fully another Republican visit on the following day, his Royal Highness expressed his readiness to march with the Brigade of Guards, and Hanoverians to his assistance.

KNOBELSDORF was by far too old a soldier to refuse an offer, that would evidently, as he foresaw, enable him to spare his own troops, and

Proceeding to Maulde, our confed'rates we found
 Most strongly encamp'd on DUMOURIEZ's late ground*,
 And the Coldstream struck up when allow'd to advance,
 Long life to King GEORGE, and confusion to France;

he therefore not only thankfully closed with it *at once*, but promised also to avail himself of the very first opportunity of employing his new auxillaries. They were accordingly under arms at midnight, and proceeded immediately through Tournay to the Camp of Maulde, where they halted at day-break on the 8th.

DAMPIERRE had established several formidable batteries in the wood opposite to the *Abbaye Viscoine*, and a body of at least 10,000 men, drawn from the garrison of Lille, was posted in the *Abbaye D'Hannon*; where, protected by *the Wood*, they were enabled to advance upon the Prussians, and could easily retreat in safety in case of a repulse. The Allies had been daily harrassed by teasing attacks of little moment since the 2d; but early on the morning of the 8th, as was expected, the enemy evinced a disposition of making another serious effort to pass the boundaries of the Wood. The first attack was made by the troops encamped at Anzin, with a view to dislodge Gen. CLAIRFAIT from his position in the *Forêt de Raismes*; and at day-break a lively cannonade commenced in that direction. The troops encamped at Famars, appeared at the same time, formed in order of battle, and the garrison of Valenciennes shewed themselves drawn up in readiness to support them, keeping COBOURG in check, while DAMPIERRE once again endeavoured to throw a supply both of troops and of provisions into *Condé*, of which the Governor stood in the greatest need.

* The Republicans having approached the edge of the Wood, the engagement became general about nine o'clock, when the Grenadiers and First Battalion of the Coldstream, and Third Guards, were ordered to move forwards, to a small Prussian Camp, situated between the villages of Nivelles and of La Motte, near the town of St. Amand. They remained there till the evening, when KNOBELSDORF wishing one Battalion to advance, the Coldstream being first for duty, marched towards Viscoine, and the Prussian General *himself conducting them* along the *Chaussée* to the skirts of the Wood, desired they would enter it, and immediately galloped off, leaving Col. PENNINGTON, without giving any directions whatever relative to his further operations. The French redoubts were so constructed, that they in a great measure, commanded the *Chaussée*, leading to St. Amand, the field pieces attached to the Guards, were therefore placed upon it, and by a brisk and well-directed fire, they kept the guns opposed to them, in check.

As we pass'd on, the fierce whisker'd Prussians we view'd
 In battle array near the skirts of the wood.
 Their Chieftain desir'd us to enter, and in
 We darted like light'ning, thro' thick, and thro' thin.
 Staunch hounds in full cry when pursuing their prey,
 Were never more eagerness known to display.
 Before us the French on retreat we descried,
 And firing one volley, the bayonet tried;
 Ere their flight was arrested, with grief I relate,
 What was many a valorous Coldstreamer's* fate.
 A mask'd gun wheel'd forwards, discharg'd showers of
 grape,
 And we thought for a time not a man would escape,
 Till the drummers *to arms* were commanded to beat,
 While PENNINGTON † privately hinted retreat,

* When the *right* Companies of the Coldstream Battalions had nearly closed upon their flying enemies; a piece of ordnance was by the Republicans wheeled forwards from a battery, which had been totally concealed from our intrepid countrymen, by the numerous bushes and impenetrable underwood of the gloomy forest. A tremendous fire was thus instantaneously brought to bear upon them, when within *pistol shot* of the very spot to which the gun had been advanced, and in a few moments, those Companies which were the most exposed, commanded by the late Col. BOSVILLE, Cols. GASCOINE, FREEMANTLE, and FITZROY, suffered considerably; the first having 21 rank and file, the second 19, the third 14, and the fourth 9, killed and wounded. The left wing escaped however without the loss of a single soldier, for so sudden was this unfortunate rencontre, that the last division had scarcely crossed the Hedge-Row, separating the Chaussée from the Forest, when the foremost was engaged.

† The most dreadful havoc must, in all human probability, have taken place, had it not been for the very prudent and collected conduct of Col. PENNINGTON. With infinite presence of mind, he immediately, lest the Republicans might be encouraged, if they imagined he was preparing to retreat, commanded the drums to beat *to arms*; at the same time, directing the soldiers to form to their colours, which he had pre-

And HOWARD thy colours* were proudly display'd,
 Tho' dear for their threats thou hast certainly paid;
 Yet thy brethren rejoice, wounds so bravely receiv'd,
 When examin'd, were void of all danger believ'd.
 Poor DARNLEY!† sincerely, we mourn thy hard fate,
 On a pris'n'r so mangled, what horrors await!

viously planted *in the rear*. Thus, in a very judicious manner, he drew them, much to his credit, *as a General*, in a short time, from certainly a most perilous situation.

This was, it will be well remembered, the first time that any part of the British Guards had been engaged, and, it must be allowed, that they to a man behaved most nobly, well aware that their national character was at stake, for the eyes of those far-famed Veterans were upon them, whose principles *in manœuvring*, they had been so recently and so carefully instructed to imitate, and to regard as models of perfection.

* Though the fire was certainly attracted by the colours which Ensign HOWARD carried unfurled, agreeable to orders, and, he was consequently wounded; it was an astonishing circumstance that the other officers escaped so well; for attentive solely to the situation of their men, they took not the least precautions for their own personal security. The greatest heroism was displayed by several of the wounded soldiers, who seemed to vie with each other in manifesting a total disregard of bodily pain, and were observed to use their feeble efforts against the enemies of their country, while their remaining strength enabled them to pull a trigger with effect. One brave fellow in particular, having received a wound in the leg, which obliged him unwillingly to drop upon his knees, loaded his piece, and exerting himself, that the Republicans might hear his voice, *in that position*, struck up "God save the King," continuing to fire untill he fell, dispatched by three successive body wounds.

† Serjeant Major DARNLEY certainly died a prisoner in France, in consequence of the wounds he had received. Though, with a degree of unfeeling thoughtlessness, which has kept his widow in a state of painful anxiety, the Editors have frequently of late inserted paragraphs in several of the public news-papers, announcing his safety and recovery.

Fortunately the Republicans gave their opponent Generals more credit than they were by any means entitled to receive; had DAMPIERRE been aware of the very *forlorn* situation of the Coldstream, (for not a single Prussian was at that time *in the Wood*), they would not probably have suffered a single man of the Battalion to have escaped. Deceived however by the spirited attack, and perceiving by the appearance of *scarlet uniforms*, that KNOBELSDORF had received a reinforcement of British troops, they gave up their intentions for that night.

Emerg'd from the forest, the third we perceiv'd
 Hast'ning on, and by them were most gladly reliev'd;
 But their trip to the wood did not cost them a man,
 As the French had a retrograde movement began.
 The Prussians, rejoic'd their own bacon to save,
 Were lavish of praises, and styling us *brave*,
 Next day would have done us the honour again,
 Of dooming some more of our men to be slain;
 But LAKE, tho' he own'd that the favour was great,
 Refus'd, till the Duke his intention should state;
 And the Duke, (which we all were delighted to find)
 The honour intended, politely declin'd.
 Our opponents however retired* in the night,
 And the rifle-men kept up a slight popping fight;
 The Carmagnols† loss without doubt was severe,
 And a six pounder paid its respects to DAMPIERRE‡.

* To the Abbaye D'Hannon.

† A name given to the French troops, from a popular Democratic Song, "La Carmagnol des Royalistes."

‡ Gen. DAMPIERRE had his thigh smashed towards the close of the evening, by a cannon ball, fired, as it was supposed, from one of the British long six pounders, of which wound he afterwards expired, and was buried with the greatest pomp and military honours on the Heights of Famars; where a monument, exhorting all Republican soldiers to imitate his civic virtues, and to take example from his courage, was erected to his memory, by the Commissioners at Valenciennes. His bust was also placed in the National Pantheon at Paris. DAMPIERRE, as he had failed in his endeavours to relieve Condé, would probably, according to the system then most prevalent in France, have finished his career upon the scaffold, had he escaped the perils of the field of battle. He was one of the very few Conventional Chieftains, who had been born a Gentleman, and bred a Soldier. As night approached, the firing of the enemy gradually decreased; and the Third Regiment was, after the retreat of the rifle men, withdrawn from the Wood. The French lost, it was reported, near 4,000 men in killed and wounded, in their different attacks that day; the Prussians 300; and the Austrians 500.

Thus the ice has been broke, and we soon shall advance
To the glory of England, and terror of France;

When the Detachment of Guards were, on the 9th of May, upon their march towards Tournay, an Aid-de-Camp from CLAIRFAIT arriving with intelligence, that the Republicans had constructed batteries in the preceding night along his front, which, if they were permitted to complete, would render his situation untenable; the British troops were halted at the village of Maulde, and his Royal Highness the Duke of YORK repaired to St. Amand, where he was met by CLAIRFAIT, and by Gen. KNOBELSDORF, when it was determined, that the Austrians and Prussians in conjunction, should assault not only those batteries, but the whole chain of French posts, at day-break the next morning. Accordingly with a very trifling loss on their sides, the Allies made 10 officers, and 150 privates prisoners; the Corps which had advanced from Lille to Hannon, fell back precipitately upon Orchies, and the French retreated in every direction, appearing entirely to abandon their designs. The Imperialists then took possession of the Abbaye D'Hannon, and immediately cut down the trees in the Wood of Amand, as they had afforded so complete a cover to the enemy.

The other Battalions having joined the First Regiment of Guards, at the Camp of Maulde, the Brigade and Hanoverians returned immediately to their former cantonments, and the Republicans appeared determined to act entirely upon *the defensive*, to which end they rendered their Camp at Famars as formidable as possible, and were seen busily employed in digging entrenchments, and constructing batteries on every Height. The ground, rising in regular slopes from the *Rbonelle*, to the spot where DAMPIERRE's monument was placed, particularly favoured their designs, overlooking the town of Valenciennes, and the country where Prince COBOURG's army was encamped.

On the 12th of May at day-break, about 1,200 of the garrison of Condé made a vigorous sortie, directing their fire against some barns and farm houses at *Vieux Condé*, which covered the Austrian Chasseurs: A Battalion of Austrian Infantry, however, advancing against them, succeeded in turning their flank, and they were repulsed with considerable slaughter.

While the Allies on the Northern Frontiers of France were thus fortunate, Prince HOHENLOHE, who commanded on the Eastern, had succeeded in driving HOUGHARD from his position in the woods, covering the *Duchy of Deux-Ponts*; and had encamped his troops near *Homburg*, forcing the French advanced posts to retire beyond *Bliescastle*. The blockade of Mayence was continued, though CUSTINE continually harassed the Confederates, by teasing and reiterated attacks, where many lives were lost, without any real advantage being gained by either party.

Such feats shall atchieve, that old Homer again,
 If living, would brandish his fame-dealing pen;
 Yet, my friend, tho' these scrawls you are doom'd to
 peruse,

Allowances make for a juvenile Muse;

The French encamped before *Cassel*, made several attempts upon the town of *Hockheim* on the *Mayne*, but were invariably repulsed by the Prussians, Hessians, and Saxons, in that quarter.

The protection of West-Flanders was configned entirely to the Dutch, and the hereditary Prince of *ORANGE* fixed his head-quarters at Courtray without meeting with the smallest opposition. The Spaniards had by this time collected an enormous force, and appeared upon the Pyrenean Mountains, hanging over and threatening Roussillon, and the Province of Languedoc, with a rapid descent. DON ANTONIO RICARDOS, the Commander in Chief of the army of Catalonia, previous to the actual commencement of hostilities, published a manifesto, stating "That the army under his command was not about to enter France with any *hostile views*, his Catholic Majesty proposing solely to deliver the French nation from the horrid despotism with which she was oppressed by an unlawful, tyrannical, and usurping assembly, the members of which, after having subverted and trod upon religion, laws, and the safety of public and individual property, after having ordained in cold blood, the most unheard of murders on the most respectable and innocent persons, had filled up the measure of their iniquities, by shedding the blood of their lawful and well-meaning Sovereign upon a scaffold. This manifesto concluded with an offer of protection and support to all true Frenchmen, who should declare themselves to be attached to a monarchical government, and a threatening declaration, that all those who should side with the pretended National Convention, should be treated as traitors and as rebels."

Some trifling advantages, as might naturally have been expected from the inferior force opposing them, were at first gained by the Spaniards, and we very soon perceived them penetrating as far as *Ceret*, and even menacing *Bellegarde*.

In addition to all the foreign powers inimical to her cause, France had, at this period, a new and most formidable enemy to contend with; the first leader of the royalists, who had adopted the fictitious appellation of *Gaston* (probably as it was the name of a brother of the fourteenth Louis) had planted his standard in the country of La Vendée, and thousands daily gathered round it, till he found himself at the head of a very numerous army. The convention paid, at first, but little attention to this insurrection, treating the Royalists as *banditti*, beneath their notice: but their repeated successes, for they had advanced upon Rochfort

One purpose they'll answer, by proving most clearly,
If proofs are requir'd, that I'm your's most sincerely.

Rochelle, and Nantes, after defeating the Republicans in every engagement; spread at length a serious alarm through the capital; and *SANTERRE* the brewer (that wretch, who, when the sixteenth *LOUIS*, from the scaffold, endeavoured to address himself to the misguided populace, ordered the drums to beat up loudly to prevent his being heard) was fixed upon as the most eligible general to march against those men, who still retained a respect for the memory of their martyred sovereign.

When the Volunteers were preparing to depart from *PARIS* to *La Vendée*, at the time of opening the theatres, all the carriages and horses met with in the streets were seized upon, to convey them with the greatest expedition, and that appears to be the first instance of the property of individuals having been forcibly put in requisition for the use of the French armies. Upon a remonstrance from the sections, they were, however, then restored to their owners, with a proviso, that they should be forthcoming whenever they were called for, and the horses thus seized upon for the use of the Republic, were immediately branded with an iron, marking them as slaves to the convention, with the prostituted cap of liberty. This was surely the critical moment, when the allies should have assisted the Royalists with all their might, and the departure of Lord Hood's fleet at that very time for the Mediterranean, led us to believe, it was with a view of supporting those brave and persevering enthusiasts in, *certainly*, an honourable cause. Had they been then supplied with cloathing, arms, and ammunition, little doubts need have been entertained of their success; and no conquests by sea or land, would have so speedily brought about the blessings attendant on the olive branch, as a forcible impression made in the heart of the Republic, while the sentiments of the nation were *unsettled*, and the majority of the departments, at a distance from the capital, were uninfected with the mania of *sanctulorism* and of equality.

LETTER VI.

CAMP AT SOLTAIN, NEAR VALENCIENNES, May 29, 1793.

Advance of the Duke of York's, to join Prince Cobourg's Army.—Battle of Famars.—Investiture of Valenciennes.

AFTER firing (and surely we scarce could do less,)
A brisk feu-de-joie for our brilliant success,
We pass'd thro' Rocour*, and encamp'd near Baissieu,
With COBOURG's grand army, the foe to pursue.
That Prince with his Staff and attendants we found,
To see† us drawn up as we march'd to our ground.

* The brigade of British light dragoons having arrived at Tournay, formed upon the plan proposed to government by Gen. Ralph DUNDASS, viz. that instead of sending entire regiments upon actual service, when many of the men were *raw recruits*, and the horses *too young* to undergo fatigue, a certain number of troops should be drafted from each corps, as by that means none but *made soldiers*, and serviceable horses would be employed, while those remaining in England were trained and disciplined against augmentations were demanded. The 14th and 53d regiments, with the grenadiers and light company of the 37th, (the *Battalion* having been detained to encrease the garrison of Ostend) were then formed into a second brigade of British infantry under the command of Major Gen. ABERCROMBIE. The first division of the Hanoverian contingent amounting to 6,000 men, having also been compleated, the Duke of YORK's army, amounting to about 10,000 men, received his Royal Highness's orders to advance on the 29th of April from their quarters and cantonments in the neighbourhood of Tournay, where they were replaced by a corps of between 5 and 6,000 Dutch troops.

† Prince COBOURG seemed highly pleased with the appearance of the British; but remarked that the dress of the light dragoons so nearly resembled that worn by the Republican cavalry, that mistakes might frequently arise, attended with most fatal consequences; to prevent which, a piece of white linen was ordered to be fastened in a conspicuous manner round the right arm of every British dragoon, and the imperialists were carefully informed of the distinction.

He was pleas'd with our men as they pass'd in review,
 And his looks said " My lads, you'll have something to do."
 On the left of his army our camp had been trac'd,
 And we found ourselves close to the Keyserlicks* plac'd.
 Their martial appearance fill'd all with delight,
 By sev'n † years *close practice* inur'd to the fight.
 Well fed, and fine fellows, above six feet high,
 Bewhisker'd each visage, besabred each thigh;
 Grenadiers from Bohemia, Hungarians and Croats,
 Created on purpose to cut Frenchmen's throats;
 Curassiers with hats shot thro' and cover'd with scars,
 With Hulans, Tirolians, Pandours, and Hussars.
 The least of them seem'd to be able to eat
 Six French at a breakfast, and think it a treat.
 'Twas fix'd on Famars we should make an attack,
 As plann'd by that great engineer, Colonel MACK.
 We silent advanc'd ‡ under cover of night,
 Our approach to conceal from the enemy's sight,

* *Keyser*, in German, signifies *Emperor*. *Keyserlick*, *Imperial*. The Austrian troops are therefore indiscriminately called *Keyserlicks*.

† The Emperor was at variance with the Turks for 7 years, and that bloody war was scarcely terminated, when the coalition against France was formed; the Imperialists were therefore allowed no respite.

‡ The Republicans had remained perfectly quiet, since their memorable defeat in the wood near St. Amand, and Prince COBOURG, who had been long waiting for the reinforcements brought up by the Duke of YORK, immediately upon their arrival, issued orders for his whole force to be in readiness to march upon a moment's warning; an immense train of heavy artillery having been previously prepared, on the 22d, at *midnight*. The camps were all in motion, and the troops composing the grand army, multering about 80,000 men, divided into four columns, silently began their march. The fires were carefully kept burning, and the few men left behind in camp, continued calling out *Wer da* from post to post *as usual*, lest the enemy's picquets might, had they been silent, have been induced to imagine some extraordinary movement had occurred.

When each column* pursuing a different way,
 Safe arriv'd at its station before break of day,
 A fog spread around us, so murky and dense,
 We delay'd for some time the attack to commence.
 Like a curtain, to rise by degrees it appear'd,
 Aurora peep'd forth, and all nature was cheer'd.
 When *Phabus* propitiously deigning to shine,
 Shot instantly forth all his radiance divine.
 So glorious a spectacle then we perceiv'd,
 As, passing description†, could scarce be believ'd.
 The eye sought relief from huge columns of men,
 That cover'd the valley, and wound thro' the glen.
 And while Sol on their arms play'd refulgently bright,
 They proudly reflected him back, his own light!

The Centinels on duty calling *all's well* from the most advanced picquet, to the chain of posts communicating with the camp, has in the dead of night, an awful and a grand effect; the custom has been highly reprobated by many experienced officers, who say, that a Centinel should be *all eye*, and give *no tongue*, but in case of actual danger; it was however universally practised by the Austrians, and, on the 22d of May, they were more loud and frequent in their communications to each other than usual.

* The troops composing the column under the command of His Royal Highness the Duke of YORK, advanced towards the Rhonelle, conducted by proper guides, and without approaching near enough to alarm the advanced posts of the enemy, lay upon their arms till day break: that under Gen. COLLEREDO was employed to observe Valenciennes, towards *St. Saulve* and *Esfreux*: Gen. OTTO took up a position to prevent any sortie from *Le Quesnoi*; and the fourth, led on by Gen. FERRARIS, was destined to assault the batteries constructed upon the right banks of the Rhonelle, where the enemy's advanced guard was posted.

† A remarkably thick fog favoured considerably the approach of the allies, though it in some degree retarded their operations, till dispersed by the penetrating rays of the rising sun. The most experienced veterans in the Duke's army (and there were many who had seen much active service in the former wars) declared, that they had never witnessed so beautiful a scene as the different columns afforded, advancing in every direction in battle array, where the enemies were, by any means aware of their proximity.

Advancing with clos'd and compact steady ranks,
 Our cavalry posted in force on our flanks.
 Near an eminence form'd to advantage we view'd
 The gen'ral attack, which soon after ensued.
 The conflict commenc'd with a brisk cannonade,
 And some batt'ries were storm'd by our second brigade*.
 Some Hussars Carmagnol we perceiv'd on the plain,
 But wheeling, they wisely retreated again
 To a village, from whence they seem'd loth to retire,
 Till the Austrian artillery set it on fire.
 Our column then o'er the Rhonelle† the way led,
 To turn their right flank, but the dastards had fled.

* After the picquets had been driven in, or rather had precipitately retreated, the columns under the command of the Duke of YORK, and of Gen. FERRARIS, advanced in different directions nearer the Rhonelle: several batteries opened upon them as they approached from the opposite banks of the river, but with little effect, though a few of the Austrian *cuirassiers*, who were more forward than the other troops, were wounded. They are so called from wearing a breast-plate, which defends entirely the upper part of the body against gun shot wounds; the *cuirasse* nearly meets behind, and appears extremely cumbersome and heavy, but from constant habit, the soldiers so appointed do not appear in the smallest degree incommoded by its weight.

The Austrian heavy artillery was quickly brought up, and some time was passed in a brisk cannonade on both sides, during which, Vilerspol was set on fire by a shower of shells, thrown rapidly into the village, and then the *beauty* of the scene (if the term is admissible, when reflection tells us, the consequences of its grandeur were productive of havoc and destruction) was considerably heightened.

† The hussars of Estahazé and Barco, without meeting with any opposition, passed the river at the village of *Marefeb*, when the brigade of guards, and two battalions of Austrian infantry, with the British and Hanoverian light dragoons, pursued the same route, to take the redoubts near *Querenaing*, and secure a passage for the other troops, by turning the enemy's right flank, which extended to those works, while their left *leaned upon Valenciennes*. This movement had the desired effect, as the French on that side abandoning their posts, fell back precipitately to some batteries they had erected on the heights behind the village of *Famars*.

There join'd by the fam'd Esterhazé hussars,
 We approach'd a thick wood between that and Famars.
 But our flankers advancing, perceiv'd, when drawn near,
 The post was entirely abandon'd and clear.
 Rejoic'd so completely our point to have gain'd,
 In that strong position some hours we remain'd.
 Then forwards were order'd some batteries to storm*,
 Whence the firing continued tremendously warm.

Early in the day, several squadrons of French cavalry, formed on a rising ground, were seen threatening the flank of Gen. FERRARIS' column: they were attacked by the Hanoverian life guards, drawn up on the plain *below them*, in a most spirited manner; indeed, nothing could exceed the bravery with which they *repeatedly* galloped up the hill, menacing their adversaries, who at length, teased by their frequent *threats*, came pouring down upon them, *sword in hand*, like a torrent rushing violently over the sides of a craggy mountain, and threatening to lay waste the country at its base.

They were met more than half way, both parties urging their horses' heads against each other, with an impetuosity which appeared irresistible. Like contending waves driven together by opposite currents, they at first appeared one firm consolidated body, neither side yielding for a moment, but to gain new force; at length the Republicans lost ground, and their opponents pursuing them, the most dreadful carnage instantly ensued.

Every broad sword appeared flushed with reeking gore up to the very hilt, nor was the victory achieved without a considerable loss on the side of the conquerors. They had 3 officers killed, two were taken prisoners, 4 wounded, and 67 rank and file were killed, wounded or missing.

* Gen. FERRARIS, after cannonading for some time, carried the entrenchments in front of the French line, at the point of the bayonet. With him was stationed the 14th, 53d, and flank companies of the 37th regiment, composing the 2d British brigade under the command of Gen. ABERCROMBIE. Seven pieces of cannon, and upwards of 150 prisoners, were taken in the redoubts. Gen. ABERCROMBIE lost only 1 drummer, and 1 rank and file killed, 2 serjeants, and 12 wounded. The Austrians, however, experienced a considerable loss of men. (It may not be amiss thus early in the narrative, to state, for the information of those unconnected with military transactions, and who perhaps never before heard the term explained, that *rank and file* means, in gazette returns, the corporals and private soldiers.)

Insufficient our force to possess them was found,
 And we soon countermarch'd to our former strong ground.
 Ere morn's crimson beams ting'd the tips of the trees,
 Resolv'd, Coute qui coute, on those batt'ries to seize;
 But prudent, or probably seiz'd with a fright,
 Our foes, *tres polis*, scamper'd off in the night*.
 From their camp at Famars too, they scudded away,
 To Cambrai, and Bouchain, Arras, and Douai.
 A place of more strength we shall scarce ever see,
 Than the camp thus obtain'd; a most perfect glacis.
 Chains of batt'ries commanding each other were found,
 And 'twas known, had they bravely disputed their ground,

Two regiments of Hanoverian infantry, and a battalion of their grenadiers, which had served at Gibraltar, and was distinguished by having the name of that impenetrable rock, worked round the coat-sleeve, were also present, and they, as well as the British brigade, had their full share of the honor gained by that column, which was, it will be seen, the most, *in fire*. In the evening, the Duke of YORK advanced along a hollow way towards the village of *Artré*, against the works behind *Famars*, but upon its being represented to his Royal Highness that the French were *there* so advantageously posted, that every effort to dislodge them that evening would be fruitless; the troops were countermarched, and, wearied out with the fatigues which they had undergone, (having been marching the greater part of the night of the 22d, and employed the 23d from day break to sun set without any refreshment, excepting a small portion of ammunition bread and water) they lopped off the boughs from the neighbouring trees, and twining them together, formed a slight covering for the night, where they were permitted to repose, without however quitting their arms for a moment, after strong picquets had been posted in their front.

* On the 24th, at 4 o'clock in the morning, the allies were once more formed, and moving steadily forwards, it was found that their enemies had abandoned their works, and retreated to the grand army, still supposed to have maintained its ground upon the formidable heights of *Famars*. Serious and bloody must indeed have been the contest, had that been the case, but fortunately the panic had universally gone forth, and the Republicans gave up, without firing a single shot, a position naturally strong, and on which art had exhausted all her efforts to render it *impregnable*.

'Twould have cost the allies, to have put them to rout,
 Four thousand brave fellows, beyond any doubt.
 MACK*, beforehand, had made an exact computation,
 Not including odd limbs in his nice calculation.
 Of the peasantry round, how distressing the fate!
 Their treatment † *a soldier* must blush to relate.
 The Hessians and Austrians, to rapine inur'd,
 And our troops by their baneful example allur'd,
 Excesses commit, that must ruin our cause,
 If continued, in breach of all order, and laws.

* Col. MACK, who had planned the whole attack, was slightly wounded early on the morning of the 23d, and forced to quit the field before he saw the victory ensured to Prince COBOURG. COUNT COLLOREDO's column was the first that took possession of *the heights*, and the French were seen on full march to the fortresses in their rear, as FERRAND the governor of Valenciennes, after completing his garrison to 11,000 men, closed the gates upon the rest of the dispirited Republicans, who all endeavoured to gain admission to that town, as the nearest place of safety for the moment—so great—so unaccountable was their alarm.

† On the 24th, after the troops had taken up their ground upon the heights, they were permitted to go in search of water, to the village of Famars, and under that pretext, behaved most scandalously to the persecuted inhabitants, who were pillaged and deprived of the whole of their property; nay, their very clothes were forcibly torn from off their backs, and they were seen almost naked at their cottage doors, wringing their hands in the greatest misery. The officers of different corps exerted themselves as much as possible, to discover and to punish the offenders; and the captain of a troop of Austrian hussars, upon being told that one of his men had torn the bed from under a woman and her infant, of which she had been but a short time delivered, cut down the hardened villain with his sabre, and left his body on a dunghill near the spot; this act of summary justice had the desired effect, by restraining in some degree, the unbridled licentiousness of the soldiery; the object of plunder was *fine cambric*, as great quantities were manufactured at the villages surrounding Valenciennes. Many of the British disgraced themselves by marauding, and a corporal of the 1st regiment of guards, who crossed a branch of the Rhonelle, to search a house on the opposite banks of the river, had encumbered his body with such a quantity of that article, which he had wound round his waist, that he was drowned in his endeavours to return.

The heights of Famars, on Valenciennes look down,
 And we now have completely blockaded the town;
 Mont Anzin* has been luckily gain'd by CLAIRFAIT,
 And the siege will commence, without further delay.

* At the very moment when Prince COBOURG's army advanced upon Famars, CLAIRFAIT, as had been previously concerted, assaulted the camp of Mont Anzin, on the opposite side of the river Scheldt; and his operations were fortunately crowned with equal success, though he experienced from his opponents a more obstinate and steady resistance. His loss must therefore have exceeded that of the grand army, amounting to about 600 men. The French were reported to have experienced a loss, in the various attacks made upon them on the 23d, about 3,000; yet as at Famars they made no stand, excepting to favor their retreat, that account must surely have been much exaggerated. Those unacquainted with the *secret defences* of Valenciennes, have frequently expressed their astonishment, that the bombardment of the place did not commence from Mont Anzin, a situation completely commanding the citadel: but to the *Marquis de Bouillie*, at that time with the Duke's army, the besiegers were indebted for the information he gave them, that mines of considerable magnitude and extent were formed in that direction, which rendered it extremely hazardous to advance CLAIRFAIT's camp too near the place.

Condé and Valenciennes being thus both entirely abandoned to their fate, Prince COBOURG determined, from the accounts he early received of the great scarcity that existed in the former place, as well as from the difficulty of approaching near enough to erect his batteries on account of the inundations, to blockade it closely, and wait till hunger should oblige the governor to throw open the gates; while he proceeded vigorously with the siege of the latter. The park of heavy artillery, for battering in breach, large mortars and howitzers, were accordingly ordered to be brought up immediately, and in the mean time, the different troops took up their positions to draw more closely round, and form the investiture of the place. The Austrians under Gen. FERRARIS extended from the Scheldt near the village of *Saulve* to *Soltain*, where their left communicated with the grenadiers of the guards forming the right of the British army, which, winding between the villages of *Preffeau* and *Aulnoil*, joined the Hanoverians and Hessians at Famars; while CLAIRFAIT's army extended from the left banks of the Scheldt to St. Leger, communicating also with Famars. The remainder of Prince COBOURG's forces formed a grand covering army of at least 80,000 men, part of which was detached to observe Maubeuge and Le Quesnoi, while the main body

To our summons, this answer with scorn was return'd,
That slaves, and their terms, they contemptuously spurn'd*.

presented a front to the army of the north, regulating its motions by the movements of the enemy, and outflanking Cambray and Douay; while the Dutch, who had succeeded in their attack upon *Mouchin* on the 23d, and made themselves, at the same time, masters of Orchies, by occupying the posts from thence to Tournay, supported by the Prussians at Hannon, and the camp of Maulde, protected the army, blockading Condé against forties from Lille.

* Prince COBOURG had complimented the Duke of YORK with the command of the besieging army, and his Royal Highness, immediately after the battle of Famars, sent an Aid de Camp with a summons to FERRAND, the Governor, which was answered with all the insolent familiarity of those new disciples of equality, enclosed in a copy of an oath, tied round with the tri-coloured ribband, by which the garrison had bound themselves rather to be buried under the ruins, than surrender to the enemies of the republick.

At this time the French obtained some trifling advantages over the Dutch in West Flanders. Prince FREDERICK of Nassau Orange had established his head-quarters at Menin, and advanced his posts as far as Roubaix. It could hardly be expected that the French would permit him to remain long in quiet possession of a position so near to Lille. On the 24th, a large body advanced from that fortress, and drove his posts back upon Tourquoin, where they made a stand, but were at length obliged to retreat through Menin upon Courtray, with a loss of 21 officers, and 450 men, killed, wounded, and missing. The next day Prince FREDERICK again approached Menin, which is the last town unfortunately for its inhabitants on the Emperor's frontiers, therefore living under daily apprehensions of eruptions from the French who frequently attack it for the sake of pillage, and not thinking it worth defending, retire to Lille, and only defer their next visit till they imagine the inhabitants have again collected their furniture and effects, and can supply them with fresh booty. A column of 5,000 men from Dunkirk arrived before Furnes on the 30th of April, the garrison of the place amounting only to about 1200 Dutch opposed them for some hours, but, from a want of artillery, they were ultimately obliged to retreat, and to fall back upon *Ostend*. There too, the object of the French was evidently plunder, as they lost no time in loading empty carts they had brought with them for that purpose, with the military stores and ammunition; and after stripping

Tell EMMA, whenever we enter the place,
I'll remember she wish'd for some beautiful lace.

the houses of every article they could lay their hands upon, retired laden with their spoils, carrying off the burgomaster, and five other magistrates, as hostages for the contributions they demanded of oxen, sheep, and forage.

On the side of the Rhine more serious attacks were made by CUSTINE, who appeared determined to strain every nerve to relieve Mayence. Having previously obliged Prince HOHENLOE, by an attack upon his camp near *Homburg*, to fall back upon *Kaiserlautern*, thereby once more gaining Possession of *Deux Ponts*, HOUGHARD kept the Prussians in that quarter in check, while Pirmasens was assaulted; that post carried, a strong column was detached to file off round Spires towards *Mayence*. The garrison of Landau at the same time made a successful sortie upon the Austrians and emigrants under the Prince de CONDE, forming the blockade of the place on the side towards the *Rhine*, while CUSTINE, with three strong columns, comprising the main body of his army, assaulted Wurmsur on that towards the *Moselle*, at day break on the 17th of May. The engagement became general near Billickheim, and the French, at the first onset, had decidedly the advantage; but, says Custine, "while the infantry were forming, a squadron of our own cavalry riding up towards them, one of the battalions mistook them for the enemy, and retreated in disorder: it became therefore impossible to rally them, and in their shameful flight, they fired upon the other troops, and behaved themselves like cowards." Gen. WURMSUR was however obliged to fall back behind the river *Queich*, and though this attempt to relieve Mayence failed, the French gained a very considerable advantage, by opening the communication with Landau, and making themselves masters of several important posts in its vicinity. CUSTINE was soon after removed to the command of the army of the north, as his free manner of talking of the conduct of his soldiers had rendered him unpopular on the Rhine. Probably expecting this event, he seems to have hastened this attack on the allies, lest his successor, after his departure, should reap the glory of the operations he had himself planned. The Austrians reckoned their loss at 130 killed. The Emigrants theirs at 100.

On the 7th of June, the Republicans, to the number of 2,600, made an eruption into the duchy of Luxembourg, after defeating *Baron Schröder* at Arlons. On the 12th, they were, however, in their turn, repulsed and driven back upon *Thionville*, and various skirmishes of less importance took place, evidently shewing the wonderful resources of the French, who could so vigorously oppose the various armies invading their territories in every direction, at a time when they had so formidable an enemy to contend with in the interior.

LETTER VII.

CAMP AT SOLTAIR, July 23d, 1793.

Opening of the Trenches preparatory to the Siege of Valenciennes—Bombardment of the Place—Ferrand's boasted Sortie—Sufferings of the Inhabitants—Operation carried on by the Besiegers.

OUR works* we've advanc'd to the walls of the town,
So close, that they threaten to batter them down.
Since our summons, FERRAND has with scorn disregarded,
Valenciennes has, alas, been severely bombarded:
And duty, the subalterns calls for so fast,
That two thirds of our time in the trenches is past.

* On the night of the 13th of June, the trenches were opened before Valenciennes; and on the 14th, at day break, the first parallel was established, and with very little loss, as their enemies fortunately did not perceive the parties advancing, owing to the extreme darkness of the night; nor could they, as the soil was of a soft clayey nature, unmixed with stones or gravel, hear them at their work till they had entrenched themselves sufficiently to be well protected against the firing from the ramparts. The French had burnt down the village of Marlis, situated close upon the suburbs of the town, lest it should afford any cover to the besiegers in their approaches; in that direction, however, on the one side, and towards St. Saulve on the other, the workmen commenced their labours, taking advantage of a hollow way they fortunately discovered, which in a great measure formed the first parallel opposite to the horn-work of the place. Every moment was then employed by the Austrian General FERRARIS, who superintended the formation of the trenches, in enlarging and rendering that parallel sufficiently wide to admit the guns as well as the carts and sledges employed for the conveyance of the shells and ammunition. The fascines for the banquettes were placed, the mortar and cannon batteries marked out and numbered, and proper embrasures for the heavy guns were formed as the parapets were constructed; on the 18th of June the bombardment of the town commenced, which was answered briskly by the garrison.

The privates scarce compass *a peep* at their camp,
 Yet no toil can their courage or chearfulness damp.
 The burden * and heat of the day they sustain, [plain.
 With their hearts in the cause, and would scorn to com-
 Brave fellows! your temples the laurels should bind
 Were your merits recorded: the chieftain † we find,
 At price of your valour exalting his name,
 And gaining his niche in the temple of Fame.
 You lament our lost guns, but my friend, understand
 'Twas a story trump'd up by that *dreamer* FERRAND.
 Who judg'd that the *buz* of a desp'rate sortie ‡
 Would serve for a wonder, nine days, á Paris.

* The British guards, as it was frequently remarked, could do more work than any of the troops employed in the trenches, during the siege of Valenciennes. This was, however, easily accounted for; they had *most* of them been accustomed to coal heaving on the river Thames; and were thereby enured to every species of bodily labour.

† " The chieftain triumphs, and the chieftain dies,

" And honours wait upon his life or death;

" But then the humble soldier, he who falls

" And dies unnotic'd by the voice of Fame,

" Is the dear object of some anxious breast;

" For him some parent, wife, or child prefers

" The daily pray'r.

" Think you not the heart

" That beats beneath the humble tunic feels

" The loss of relatives with pangs as great

" As that which throbs beneath the richest toga?"

‡ A party of the French troops, in garrison at Valenciennes, were stated to have sallied forth upon the trenches on the 17th of June, and to have spiked up 13 of the British guns. Such a report was, it is true, given in to the National Convention, and inserted in the Paris papers. But so far from any sortie having been *even attempted*, the rifle men, posted in the corn fields between the works of the besiegers and the town, were never once driven in during the siege. Had they ventured to approach, they would have met with a most warm reception. Strong covering parties were constantly posted in different parts of the parallels to protect the workmen, with strict injunctions not to fire a shot, but if

And TRUTH not a line, as he knew, could advance
To cheer for a moment dispirited France.

they perceived their enemies approaching, to remain perfectly quiet, and suffering them to reach the trenches, to leap the parapet, and charge briskly with the bayonet; while large detachments of cavalry, which were constantly formed behind the ruins of *Marlis*, and the battered buildings on the other extremity of the first parallel, by charging over loose fascines, would also have at once borne down upon both flanks of the republicans. In that case, instead of spiking up the *British* guns, few of them would have been suffered to escape with the sad tidings to Ferrand.

What gave rise to the report of this *memorable sortie* was, the appearance of a small party of the garrison, immediately after their usual *dinner hour*, (when the firing from the ramparts was always *redoubled*) drawn up, under cover of their guns. The alarm was given. When the Hanoverians, then on duty, contrary to their orders, began a useless fire of musquetry over the parapet of the trenches, upon which the reconnoitering heroes of the garrison, after discharging their pieces in the air, took refuge once again within their formidable walls. As a Frenchman's pen is formed in such an extraordinary manner, that it naturally glides off into *gaconade*, we cannot wonder that Ferrand, in his dispatches to his lords and masters, should spike up 13 pieces of artillery, but must rather admire his humility and moderation, in marking down so insignificant a number, for the addition of a single cypher would certainly have given a much higher finish to the tale.

It would be deemed by most readers tedious and uninteresting to enumerate minutely the daily occurrences that took place during the siege. While the trenches were forming, they were indeed invariably the same. The first parallel completed, approaches were made by means of small trenches, called *zigzags*, from the form in which they were constructed; from the most advanced point of which, a second line was marked out, in which direction a wide trench was formed, while the incessant fire kept up from the *first parallel*, protected the men at work upon the second, and, when that was finished, the cannons, mortars, and howitzers were advanced, while a *third* was pushed on in like manner to within about 60 yards of the crest of the glacis. The new works, when it was necessary to break ground, were uniformly constructed in the night; and the garrison, by throwing from their mortars luminous balls, affording them a very clear and steady light, were enabled to ascertain in what direction they should aim their shells. A few shots from the trenches, however, usually extinguished them.

Several instances of the most intrepid courage, and total disregard of personal security, were daily witnessed. The following anecdote affords, perhaps, one of the most striking that occurred during the siege. A

Her rulers, however, have consciences supple,
 And *gull* is the word, *pour amuser les peuples*.
 Our foes night and day keep us fully employ'd,
 And the town must, we fear, be completely destroy'd.
 Each quarter in turns has been noted on fire,
 Yet their steady defence we're compell'd to admire.

private, in the Austrian corps of bombardiers, perceiving that a live shell from the town had fallen close to several loaded ones placed in the trenches for immediate use, not far too from a magazine of powder, was cool enough at the moment, and had his thoughts sufficiently about him, to gather up a handful of the earth, and with it deadening the *portfire*, cut it off, ere it could communicate with the combustible matter; thereby snatching himself and his companions from a sudden death, and saving the depot of ammunition. He was rewarded by promotion to the rank of *Serjeant*, and received the *first* order of merit. The consequences of large shells, upon explosion, were sometimes dreadful; but a want of caution was usually discernable, where they took any very marked effect. It was extremely difficult to keep the men *on covering parties* (as they had in fact no active labour to engage their minds) from sleeping. They would often gather in numbers under little sheds, which they from time to time had formed with loose fascines, and it was *there* they suffered most severely. One night, six privates of the guards, had discovered in the second parallel an excavation in the bank, made use of at the commencement of the siege as a temporary powder magazine. It was supposed to have been *bomb-proof*, but a thirteen-inch shell, while those ill-fated and infatuated men were sleeping there, came slanting over the summit of the opposite parapet, and forcing its way in at the very entrance of the cave, tore them in a moment limb from limb.

About the same time (on the 9th of July) an unaccountable explosion was heard in the camp of the 11th light dragoons. It was found, that one of the soldiers had discovered a 13 inch shell near the village of Marlis, the *fuse* of which had been extinguished in its fall; he had wheeled it up before him to his tent, and having been confined a prisoner in the rear guard, contrived to have his shell still with him. For several days his chief employment had consisted in picking out the *powder with his bayonet*; a spark of fire was thus at length produced by the repeated friction of the steel against the *shell*, and in a moment it went off, carrying away the miserable sufferer's legs close to the hip. In about ten minutes he expired in agonies; one of the mangled limbs was thrown against the sentry at the tent door with such violence, as to fell him to the ground.

Their cannoneers, wonderful judgment have shewn,
 And their shells with the nicest precision are thrown.
 From our camp, the tremendous bombardment each night,
 Affords a most awful, yet beautiful fight.
 While nimbly the sly skipping howitzer flies,
 The solemn Thirteen slowly moves thro' the skies.
 Red hot shot, *riochet*, and the hoarse twenty-four,
 Vociferous in concert all horribly roar. [vey'd,
 Their church*, whence so clearly our camps they sur-
 For its lofty pre-eminence dearly has paid.
 The Thirteens their way to it speedily found,
 And quicker than light'ning its tow'r kiss'd the ground.

* The largest church in Valenciennes, a most beautiful and elegant piece of Gothic architecture, was entirely demolished; the mortars having been pointed against it from the very commencement of their firing, as the garrison, from its lofty tower, commanded a view of the surrounding camps, and could discover plainly the motions of the besieging army. The barracks in that quarter of the town, near the gate of Lille, were reduced to a mere heap of ashes, and being very extensive, had, when on fire, a most awful, and tremendous appearance.

Humanity experienced many a heart-felt pang, when reflection dwelt upon the necessity of aiming the destructive shell at the very spot, where it was known our fellow creatures were in crowds collected; endeavouring to extinguish the devouring flames. Alas! how many of the peaceful inhabitants must at those moments, compelled to remain pent up within their walls, have lost their lives by lingering and excruciating wounds! What a dismal prospect too was open to the sad survivors; doomed to behold their former habitations levelled with the ground; the aged parents, *perhaps instantaneously* deprived, by the splinters of the very bomb which had consumed their property, of those children, to whose industrious toil, themselves now past all labour, they looked up *solely* for their daily bread. Ever too in apprehension of the *fatal storm*, when the rapacious soldier, freed from all restraint, hardened by scenes of carnage, and become more savage than the half-starved tyger, is at once let loose to glut his thirsty soul in pillage, slaughter, and *every species* of excess. Of all the various articles contained in the swelled-out and lengthened catalogue of *WAR'S dire horrors*, none surely can exceed the *sufferings* of the *defenceless citizens* in a bombarded fortress: exposed to the destructive *shell*, or buried in dark case-

Condé* to the Austrians has fall'n by blockade,
And the garrison pris'ners of war have been made.

mates, and deprived of air, till the parched tongue calls feebly upon death to end such complicated miseries.

- " O would the warrior think, when he has grasped,
- " With sanguine hand, the flag of victory ;
- " When he surveys the victims of his valour
- " Piled up before him, he has made affliction
- " Stalk with colossal strides o'er scenes unnumber'd,
- " And chang'd abodes of bliss to haunts of woe :
- " To his rapt eye the blooming flowers would fade,
- " Strewed is his path, to hail his car of triumph ;
- " The fragrant incense lose its power to charm,
- " And choral songs seem drowned in piercing shrieks."

* The troops in garrison at Condé, after having made several ineffectual attempts to establish batteries with a view of dislodging the besiegers, in order to procure, by incursions into the neighbouring villages, a temporary supply of fresh provisions ; surrendered at discretion on the 10th of July, having been long in the utmost distress, and reduced to live upon eleven ounces of bread, two ounces of salted horse flesh, and a very trifling quantity of rice per diem. The scarcity was owing, it was said, to DUMOURIEZ having drawn out from the magazines of the town the greatest part of the provisions for the supply of his army when at the camp of Maulde. On the 13th, the French garrison, amounting to about 3,650 men (nearly 350 remaining sick behind them) marched out as *prisoners of war*, after enduring a blockade of two and seventy days. They had, by means of *rockets*, and other signals, frequently informed the governor of Valenciennes of their situation, and, when the wind was in a quarter favouring their views, letters were sent by small *balloons*, many of which falling short of their intended destination, were found by the besiegers. Provisions for *not more* than eight and forty hours remained when they surrendered.

The guns found upon the ramparts, being mostly two and thirty pounders, were removed to the batteries constructed in the 3d parallel before the town of Valenciennes : the more effectually enabling the besiegers to fire point blank upon the works, in order to create a practicable breach. The trenches were advanced so near the horn-work of the place, that the Tirailleurs and rifle-men could easily, from behind the sand-bags placed upon the parapet of the 3d parallel, discover and take aim at the republicans posted in their *covert way*. It was by no means an uncommon circumstance, at one moment, to hear the opponent

Good news from Valenciennes I soon shall relate,
As Ferrand, tho' no prophet, may guess at its fate.

parties conversing familiarly together, and *the next* to behold them inveterately firing upon each other.

Air guns were made use of at that period by a corps in the service of his Imperial Majesty, constructed on a new and curious principle of mechanism; the ramrods acting upon them as pumps, to load the barrels. The inventor, if he still exists, is kept, as it is said, in close confinement at Vienna, lest the secret should by any means transpire.

On the 16th of July, a French officer, with a flag of truce, appeared advancing from the town: all firing ceased, of course, *immediately*; and it was supposed the governor had sent him out with proposals of capitulation. His business was, however, merely to obtain permission for a lady (Madame Metiour) who was indisposed, to pass to a place of safety through the camp of the besiegers. During the short period of tranquillity that then ensued, the French officers, and those of the allies, on duty at the time, advanced between the trenches and the town, and talked familiarly together, when it appeared from, all accounts, that FERRAND's determination was to hold out till a practicable breach was made, and *then*, unless CUSTINE advanced to his relief, to treat with the besiegers.

It had been well remembered that a trumpeter, in the dress of the Imperialists, had passed through the encampments, with a letter apparently from Cobourg to Ferrand. The circumstance was talked of at the time, and the allies now learnt, that they had been deceived by the fluency with which he spoke the German language. The fellow was, *in fact*, a messenger dispatched by Gen. CUSTINE; he dextrously managed to pass from post to post, and ultimately gained the town, *sounding* his trumpet, and producing boldly his *dispatches*. In like manner, he also returned *unsuspected*. A tremendous fire *on both sides* followed this short suspension of hostilities. And when the *dismounting* guns were placed upon the batteries of the 3d parallel, a second summons was sent to Gen. FERRAND, to which a most laconic answer was returned, written, as it was said, upon the back of the Duke of YORK's own letter, viz. "*Custine repondira.*"

As the besiegers had now pushed on their works so close upon the covert way, before the horn-work of the place, that bombs of any size could not with any *sure effect* be thrown; splinters of shells and stones were often substituted by both parties. The crimson banner still continued streaming in the air, in token of defiance, and it was seriously apprehended, that the enthusiasm of the commissioners, Couchon and Debrie, at that time in the town, would induce FERRAND to procrastinate his obstinate defence, till the town was wrested from his hands by
STORM.

He has hitherto look'd for relief from Custine,
 Who now for some time past at Paris has been, }
 Awaiting the honours of Dame Guillotine.
 The verses enclos'd, at your leisure peruse,
 They'll answer, perhaps, a dull hour to amuse.
 With my love, present copies to Emma and Sue;
 Duty calls, so accept of this hasty adieu.

*Verses written by an Officer when on Duty in the
 Trenches before Valenciennes, enclosed in the
 preceding Letter.*

WHERE thund'ring cannon vomit smoke and fire,
 Where balls and shells fly whistling o'er my head;
 Say, will the Muse her votary inspire?
 Say, will she deign 'midst scenes like these to tread?

Erst was I wont to hail thee in the shade,
 The crystal stream meand'ring at my feet;
 Or seated by my lovely nut-brown maid,
 Thy presence cheer'd me in the still retreat!

Where peace, attended by her smiling train,
 On Thames's banks, delighted seem'd to stray,
 Near Runnymede *securely* held her reign,
 And joy'd to see the sporting heifers play!

These days, these halcyon days! again shall come,
 But now I woo thee to a diff'rent scene;
 Attend where sounds the discord-stirring drum,
 Attend 'midst death and havoc, maid serene!

Where Desolation shakes his gory locks,
 And under foot Bellona * Ceres treads;
 Her hopes the hell-born Fury grinning mocks,
 And blood amidst her promis'd harvest sheds.

There, where your batter'd heap of stones † is pil'd,
 Once dwelt perhaps, a fond and happy pair!
 Perhaps a prattling infant sweetly smil'd,
 And lent its little aid to banish care.

But they were slaves, so said aspiring France,
 And freedom offer'd from the cannons mouth;
 Bidding her Democratic Sons advance,
 And spread her principles from North to South.

Can slaves to wickedness ‡ be titled free?
 Can miscreants wallowing in their country's blood,
 Bask in thy smiles, celestial Liberty?
 Goddess, propitious only *to the good!*

See where their hapless Monarch slaughter'd lies!
 Hear the wild anguish of their captive Queen,
 Each morn beholds new shapes of horror rise,
 And *Fear* and *Death* divide the blood-stain'd scene.

* The lines of encampment, surrounding Valenciennes, were drawn through large fields of standing corn nearly ripe. The farmers' hopes were thus instantaneously blasted upon the investiture of the place, and the waving grain trodden down, and left to wither on the ground.

† Ruins at *Marlis*, the nearest village to the town of Valenciennes; formerly famous for a *Royal* manufactory having been established there for nails, and many thousand pounds worth of iron was destroyed when it was burnt by FERRAND's orders, upon the allies advancing after the battle of Famars.

‡ This cannot surely be *misconstrued* into an illiberal remark upon a whole nation. Every man of common humanity beheld the sanguinary atrocities committed by the regicidal rulers of the Convention, at that period, with loathing and disgust.

England, my country! that I e'er should hear
These wretches, urg'd by envy and by pride,
Threaten their banners in thy plains to rear,
And on thine own indignant channel ride.

Britannia smiling said, " My sons, go forth,
" Instruct them to respect our arms, our laws,
" Though scarce my sea-girt children's notice worth,
" Go stem their Pride, in Freedom's *genuine* Cause."

Her sons obey'd, and victory mark'd their way;
In Gallia's air behold the Union wave;
And deathless laurels shall their toils repay,
Who *wound* to *heal*, and who *subdue* to *save*,

LETTER VIII.

CAMP AT SOLTAIN, August 5, 1793.

Storming of the Hornwork.—Consequent surrender of Valenciennes.—Effects of the Bombardment.—General Movement of the allied Powers.

ALL is hush'd, 'tis again calm tranquillity's reign,
And whistling, the peasant stumps over the plain.
So recently robb'd of the fruits of his toil,
Rejoicing, turns up the light fertiliz'd soil.
After six weeks hard fighting, as ever was known,
Valenciennes, dear-bought conquest! at length is our own.
So briskly a battery from Briquet* had play'd,
That the Carmagnols, sorely annoy'd and dismay'd,
Could no longer to stand to their guns be persuaded,
Perceiving their ramparts were thus enfiladed.
The sapper† beyond the third parallel stole,
And the miner advanc'd like the mischief-fraught mole;

* A battery had been established near the Village of Briquet, by the advice of Major CONGREVE, which so completely enfiladed the ramparts of the place, that the garrison, it was said, lost 500 men the first day it was opened; and no bribe FERRAND could offer, would afterwards induce the Republicans to stand to their guns, as indeed it became certain death for any of them to appear in that direction.

† Valenciennes was the first town that had for many years been regularly besieged, and every mysterious invention gleaned from the art of war, was put in practice to reduce the place. Exclusive of the three formidable parallels, by which the besiegers had so nearly reached the crest of the glacis, they now advanced their works still further, and not venturing to *break ground*, exposed as they then were to the incessant fire of musquetry, continually pouring upon them from the covert way, the mode of *sap* was *thus* adopted:—A large gabion, above seven feet high, was pushed over the parapet of the trenches, and the sapper advancing armed with an iron helmet and cuirasse, against the fire of rifle-men, rolled

His progress was close to the covert way pac'd,
And the globes* of compression in order were plac'd,

it on before him, as a protection to his person, while he filled, as expeditiously as possible, smaller gabions with earth, placing them close together, in a line, formed also *parallel* to the trenches; other gabions were in like manner pushed forwards and arranged, till the approach was formed as near to the glacis as was deemed necessary by FERRARIS. One of the sappers at Valenciennes had been at the sieges of *Ismael* and *Belgrade*. They were, he said, paid very highly for each gabion that they filled, as, when not more than six or eight were employed, the service was so imminently dangerous, that they expected two or three to fall.

*The mines being now complete, and globes of compression placed in them (such as were for the first time used by the Austrians at the sieges of *Belgrade* and *Ismael*) formed of iron, each containing 55 hundred weight of gunpowder, intended to clear away, by their explosion, any counter mines of the Republicans; orders were issued to the troops on the 25th of July, as the first step necessary to be taken, to storm the covert way, and if possible to effect a lodgment on the hornwork of the place. These detachments, each of 900 men, were destined for the different attacks; one to be made upon the salient angle of the ravelin of the half bastion on the right, and one on the flèche. The troops employed upon the right were divided into three parts, turning the flèche to the right and left, while the *centre* division received orders to advance in front. Detachments of the British Hanoverians and Hessians formed Gen. ABERCROMBIE'S column, destined for the attack of the salient angle of the ravelin; 150 men, of the brigade of guards, composed the *van*, under the command of Col. LEIGH, of the 3d regiment, commanding the battalion formed from the flank companies of the brigade of guards. The other columns were composed of Austrians, and the whole was conducted under the command of the Imperial Lieutenant General ERBACK. The different detachments had been previously posted in their proper directions, concealed by the approach formed beyond the third parallel by *sap*. When the last report of the explosion of the mines was heard, about 9 o'clock at night, they *buzzed*, and darted forwards with an impetuosity which nothing could resist; unprepared especially as the French were, and little expecting so prompt a visit.

The havoc and slaughter that ensued, was dreadful! In an advanced and insulated work, an Austrian regiment found, upon swimming across the water, a large detachment of their enemies, and immediately, without distinction, put every soul there to the sword. The ditch of the covert way was only carried *just in time*, to prevent the French from springing the mines, which had not been within the reach of the globular balls

Thus having this first and great object obtain'd,
 The horn-work was order'd by storm to be gain'd.
 The roster to LEIGH had consign'd the command,
 Who led on to glory a spirited band.
 Till the third mine was sprung, in the trenches perdu
 They lay, and then over the parapet flew.
 In disorder retreating, their foes they perceiv'd,
 And pursued with an ardor, can scarce be believ'd.
 Consid'ring the point gain'd, our loss, though not great,
 Yet TOLLEMACHE* sincerely we mourn thy hard fate.
 Tow'rd's the close of the ev'ning, a thirteen inch shell,
 Hov'ring long o'er the parallel, burst as it fell.

of compression. Several were discovered *loaded*, and a miner was taken in the very act of applying a lighted match to the train communicating with them. The man was offered *quarter*, provided he would point out the direction of the other subterraneous works, and if any credit may be given to several officers who were present, after having afforded them every information in his power, some of the wretches, attached to the victorious column, butchered him in *cold blood*. Englishmen are, by nature, brave and generous, and will therefore find it difficult to persuade themselves, that human nature could be, *in any shape*, so shockingly depraved, had they however seen those savages, who always form a part of every German army, they would believe them capable of every atrocious and wanton act of cruelty.

A subterraneous passage was then discovered, leading from the covert way to the hornwork, and no troops appearing to interrupt the *workmen*, a lodgment was instantly made; thus, before the dawn of day, the Austrians had not only screened themselves from the fire of the cavalierre battery, by means of gabions filled with earth (and some of them, as was at the time reported, with the dead bodies of the enemy) but had also constructed a redoubt for the purpose of battering in breach the *countergarde*, a work between the hornwork and the body of the place.

The British had their full share, both in the dangers and the glory of the night; and, to adopt a phrase made use of *jocosely* by an officer, when departing for that duty, in reply to a question from Prince ERNEST, "They gathered fresh laurels upon the hornwork of Valenciennes."

* The loss of the allies amounted to not more than 150 men, in killed and wounded. Unfortunately, however, Ensign TOLLEMACHE, a young

Appearing to single him out as its prey,
And tore him from life amidst glory away.

officer of the guards, of very great professional merit, and very deservedly regretted by his brother soldiers, was killed by the explosion of a *random* shell, thrown accidentally into the third parallel, and perhaps the only shell that fell there that night. Understanding the German language, he had been left as orderly officer to the Austrian general, superintending the working parties in the trenches. Capt. WARD, of the 1st regiment of guards, and Lieut. DEWAR, of the 14th regiment of the line, were the only British officers wounded, the latter very severely. He had accompanied the storming party as a volunteer, as did also Capt. WHETHAM, of the guards. The total loss of Col. LEIGH's detachment amounted only to 14 *wounded*, including non-commissioned officers. The Croats, in front of CLAIRFAIT's camp at Mont Anzin, carried at the same time several detached works; while the Hanoverians kept up the whole night an incessant fire from the battery of briquet, advancing at times to the very crest of the glacis. The hornwork having been carried with such wonderful facility, turned out to be of the most essential consequence, as it was afterwards found to be entirely undermined; the hopes of the besiegers might have been possibly frustrated at the very instant of apparent success, had it been taken in any way but by surprise. The consequences must have been most dreadful, had the French miner succeeded when about to apply the fatal match to the *train*, which would instantaneously have blown the storming party, formed upon the excavated ground, to atoms. The gazette accounts stated, that the most *dangerous*, as well as the most *laborious* part of the siege, fell upon the Imperialists, which the subsequent return of the number they had lost, apparently confirmed. It must, however, be considered, that the British formed but a very small part of the besieging army, and that their loss of 90 *men*, was proportionably as great, if we consider the disparity of their numbers, as that of the Austrians computed at 1,300. That no troops could endure more labour than the British, the *Austrian engineers* were well convinced, as they *invariably* placed them where it was of most consequence to form the new approaches with dispatch; nay, so little respite was allowed, that the very men who came off duty with the working parties in the morning, usually found themselves in orders for covering parties in the evening; and, at the commencement of the siege, the camp has frequently been left without a soldier, except the *rear* and *quarter guards*, which were generally furnished by the officers' batt-men and servants. It seems scarcely necessary to remark, that the troops on duty in the trenches must have been *equally* exposed, when we state, that the British were at all times as much advanced in *those trenches* as their brave allies.

All night our hoarse batt'ries continued to play,
 But our summons* was gladly receiv'd the next day.
 FERRAND upon terms to surrendert agreed,
 If his troops into France were allow'd to proceed.
 First, during the war, men and officers both
 Being solemnly bound to *disarm* by an oath†.
 The time was then fix'd for their marching away,
 And too weak is my muse such a brilliant display
 To describe, or to paint, the superb cavalcade.
 A better appearance sure troops never made.
 The Bohemians, and Austrians, *uncas'd*, were as clean,
 And as well-looking foldiers as ever were seen.

* On the 26th, his Royal Highness the Duke of YORK dispatched a third summons to the governor, and one to the Municipality of Valenciennes, offering most favourable terms; and assuring them, that unless they entered *then* into negotiations, all future avenues of communication would be closed, and the *fatal storm* inevitably and immediately ensue. To this, the answer from the town was such as caused a suspension of hostilities for four and twenty hours, while terms of capitulation were drawn up and mutually discussed. They were signed on the 28th; consisting of twenty-five original, and four additional articles, by which it was determined, That the garrison should march out with military honors by the gate of *Cambray*, ground their arms near Briquet, and leaving behind them their field pieces, as well as the heavy guns upon the ramparts, ammunition, stores, &c. be permitted to return to the interior, upon the officers passing their paroles, and the soldiers being bound, by oath, not to serve against his Imperial Majesty, or his Allies, during the continuance of the war. After some little delay, on account of the usual demand of covered waggons, and the disposal of the Commissioners COUCHON and DE BRIE (who were at length considered as a part of the garrison) hostages were exchanged, and the besiegers took possession of the out-works, the half-moon, crown-work, and the counter-guard. The grenadiers of the British guards, occupied *as the post of Honour*, the works on their side of the gate of *Cambray*.

† Valenciennes capitulated July the 28th.

‡ Which oath was violated, as many of them were taken prisoners the 9th of August, near Bournon.

And the British Dragoons coming up from Condé,
 Encreas'd not a little the pride of the day.
 To be sure, when the French issued forth from the gate,
 The contrast beheld was most strikingly great.
 For I think, in my life-time my eyes never yet
 Beheld a more filthy and beggarly set.
 Thro' our ranks by Famars, and tow'rds Cambray* they
 pass'd,
 Ev'ry one that approach'd, something worse than the last.
 In Valenciennes the objects that burst on our view,
 Deep sighs from thy bosom *humanity* drew.
 By our firing, the houses† so batter'd had been,
 In parts scarce one brick on another was seen;

| | | |
|---|-----------|------------|
| * The Garrison of Valenciennes, when the Besiegers | } | 11,000 men |
| took up their ground, investing the place, consisted of | | |
| They marched out fit for duty on the 1st of August | | 4,000 |
| Sick and wounded | — — — — — | 2,500 |
| And must, therefore, have lost in killed, wounded, | } | 4,500 |
| and by the fever, including a few left behind in the hos- | | |
| pitals, — — — — — | | |
| To account for their original number | — | 11,000 men |

143,800 shot and shell were thrown into the town during the siege.
 The expence of a 13 inch shell, including powder, is about 5l.; of a 24
 pound shot, about 2l. sterling.

+ Mr. PHILIP RYAN, an English gentleman, long settled in the town,
 and who was there, with his family, the whole six weeks of the siege, de-
 clared, that upon an average, (and a calculation had been made,) every
 third house had been *battered down*, and that *not one* had escaped from
 the effects of shot or shell. Upon the investiture of the place, he applied
 to the Governor for permission to remove his family, supposing that, as
 an Englishman, his plea would have been admitted. FERRAND, how-
 ever, informed him, that he was welcome, if he chose to run the risque
 of being fired upon, both by the besiegers, and from the ramparts of the
 place, as no flag of truce would be permitted to precede him!

While basking for air,* and to sever a prey,
 Men, women, and children, obstructed our way.
 And many poor wretches, who gaz'd on the light,
 For a moment breath'd free, then expir'd in our sight.
 Perceiving such heaps of the dying, and dead,
 The pleasure, deriv'd from our victory, fled.
 For thy miseries war, there, alas ! is no cure,
 And soldiers such horrible fights must endure.
 Yet they who escap'd like true French, *sans soucis*,
 By the wretchedness round them, unmov'd, full of glee,
 With shrugs and grimaces, would talk of a shell,
 And call a twelve pounder a mere *Bagatelle*.
 For EMMA some lace, as was promis'd, I bought,
 Then musing the Camp again heavily fought.
 Rejoicing sincerely, to quit I confess,
 For a period such scenes of heart-rending distress !

* From having been so long, and so closely confined in casemates, which were at Valenciennes miserably bad, a dreadful fever raged amongst the inhabitants, and swept them off by hundreds. The fresh air had such an effect upon many of those sufferers, whose existence had been in misery prolonged till the surrender of the place, that they were seen expiring in the street, the moment they were exposed to it.

Amongst the various details of miseries endured during the siege, the inhabitants told of a small Convent, where the Nuns had taken refuge in one of the cellars ; a thirteen inch shell piercing through the roof, found its way to the very spot where they were assembled, and instantaneously destroyed, or miserably mangled the whole sisterhood, to the number of fifteen.

Some British Officers, passing through the streets immediately after the town had been taken possession of, in the name of his Imperial Majesty, observed a Bookseller's Shop upon the *grand Place*, appearing so neat, and so little damaged, that they entered it ; and in the course of conversation, congratulated the owner upon having escaped so well. Alas, Gentlemen, replied the poor fellow, with tears rising at the moment, the very first shell thrown into the town, deprived me, in an instant, of my wife and two daughters.

Around bustling faces bespeak preparation,
 And a grand *coup* we hear is in full agitation.
 That CLAIRFAIT's* choice troops, will lead presently
 forth,
 And with fury assault all our foes in the North.
 To Soltain we must bid an unwilling adieu,
 And give up all the excellent feeds at Estreux.
 Fame tells, (as in sieges so well we succeed,)
 We shall after this march, against Dunkirk proceed,
 But sure, while in force, 'twould be more worth our
 while,
 To endeavour *at least*, to be master of Lille.†

* The Allies, in every period of the present war, have, in *their Councils*, been noted for laying down most admirable plans; but, at the same time, have evinced a want of Generalship in carrying those measures into execution. No one instance can, perhaps, be more forcibly adduced to prove the truth of this assertion, than the unaccountable manner in which their attack upon the Republican Army of the North had been procrastinated, till the enemy procured the most accurate intelligence of the intended movement of their opponents. Granting it *necessary* for the *Besieging Army* to have remained before Valenciennes till the town had been evacuated, and that the advance of the *Covering Army* had, on that account, been unavoidably *retarded*; allowing even that the pompous display of Hungarian Grenadiers, Bohemians, and the choicest troops of the Imperial and British forces, at the gate through which FERRAND's miserable and ragged garrison was to pass, could answer any good purpose; there surely was no reason for so fine a body of men remaining in total idleness for *five days*, after that raree-show had been exhibited to the gaping inhabitants of the adjacent Flemish towns.

† As the result of the consultations, held amongst the Chieftains of the Coalesced Armies, would too frequently transpire, it was well known, that the most experienced officers gave it as their decided opinion, immediately upon the capitulation of Valenciennes, that the possession of Lille was absolutely necessary to ensure success to every future plan of operations. Its surrender would, there is little doubt, have at once terminated the war on the Continent, as the inferior Barrier towns were all, more or less, dependant upon that formidable fortress, and must ultimately have fallen, one after the other, into the hands of the Coalesced

W^h However, our gen'als, wise men without doubt,
 Are at all times aware what they're going about.
 Our Province alone is, I'm happy to say,
 Implicitly their *dread commands* to obey;
 But the Drum Major waits, so in haste I must end,
 Remaining, believe me, sincerely your *Friend*.

Powers. The road to Paris might easily have then been pointed out, for Lille is at once mistress of the Netherlands, and, as LOUIS the XIVth emphatically called it, the surest key to the capital of France, distant from it only fifty-two short leagues. Surely 200,000 men (and full as many could have been, at that period, brought together by Prince COBOURG) elated with their recent conquests, were fully equal to the arduous undertaking; especially as the garrison was known to be extremely weak, and the inhabitants had so much at stake, and had also so recently smarted under the horrors of a bombardment, that they would have used every effort in their power to forward the views of the Allies.

The French Army of the North was also at that period so disorganized, that it could not have made any impression upon the immense force Prince COBOURG would have formed to cover the besiegers.

The bombardment of Mayence ceased only three days previous to that of Valenciennes; and on the 23d of July, the King of PRUSSIA, in the name of the Germanic Empire, obtained possession of that important fortress, upon terms nearly similar to those granted by the Duke of YORK to General FERRAND. The army of Catalonia still continued before Bellegarde, and a formidable fleet had been dispatched, by his Catholic Majesty, to co-operate in the Mediterranean with Lord Hood. Frequent and very serious engagements had occurred in the vicinity of NICE; but his Sardinian Majesty, by his treaty with Great Britain, having obtained a subsidy of 200,000l. sterling, was enabled to keep on foot an army of 50,000 men, not only covering his own dominions, but rendering him a formidable enemy to the Convention.

LETTER IX.

MENIN, August 19, 1793.

Circuitous Detour of the Allies, in order to encircle the French Army of the North.—Failure of the Attempt.—Unfortunate Division of the British and Imperialists.—Affair of LINCELLES.

SUCH deeds as I now am about to rehearse,
Deserve, you'll exclaim, a much loftier verse;
But 'tis easier by far, to compose and invent,
By an English *fire-side*, than in TROTTER's *bell-tent*.
I'll therefore, without further preface, proceed,
And, my friend, pray for once take the will for the deed.
The batt-horses, idle so long at Soltain,
Were astonish'd to feel funks and fods once again.
And heavily trudg'd on, their hard lot bemoaning,
Loaded up to their ears, and most piteously groaning.
St. Aubert* then we reach'd by a little detour,
Proceeding, without loss of time, to Crevecoeur.

* On the sixth of August, the grand scheme which had been so long in agitation took place. The brigade of heavy cavalry, then brought up to join the Duke's army, consisted of the royal regiment of horse guards, or blues; 3d dragoon guards; royals; Iniskillings; and Scotch greys; the king's dragoon guards having been left behind to garrison Ostend.

CLAIRFAIT advanced with three very strong columns upon the entrenchments in front of Cambray, at the *camp de Cæsar*, while a detachment of Austrians, with the British, Hessians, and Hanoverians, under his Royal Highness the Duke of YORK, filed round, by forced marches, with a view of passing the Scheldt, and of taking up a position to cut off the retreat of the division of the northern army, occupying the heights of Bourlon, upon which the troops assaulted in the camp de Cæsar by CLAIRFAIT would naturally have fallen back, and would, in that case, have found there a superior force, formed in readiness to receive them; thus placed between two fires, they must have grounded their arms, or have been cut to pieces.

The corps formed under his Royal Highness the Duke of YORK, when encamped near the village of St. Aubert, consisted, exclusive of the Bri-

After crossing the bone of contention, push'd on,
A position to gain, near the Bois de Bourlon*.

tish, of 7 battalions of Hanoverian infantry, and six squadrons of cavalry, 2 battalions, and 5 squadrons of Hessians, and 4 battalions and 10 squadrons of Austrians. They crossed the Scheldt on the 8th at *Manieres* and *Crevecoeur*. During their march, they discovered a body of the enemy's cavalry, threatening their right flank, which was, however, driven back by a few shots from the Austrian light artillery. A squadron of the 15th light dragoons under Col. CHURCHILL, receiving intelligence of some French hussars being in a neighbouring village, rode on, and took them by surprise, making, after a rapid charge, in which several of the Republicans were killed, 2 officers, and 44 privates prisoners.

* At day-break on the 8th, the Duke's army advanced in three columns against the French, supposed to have been encamped upon the heights of Bourlon. They had, however, it was found, retreated, and, as it was in vain for the infantry to attempt to overtake them, the cavalry were called for, and the British *heavy brigade* pushed on, in hopes of unsheathing, for the first time, their broad swords, against the enemies of their country. In addition to the weight each *heavy troop horse* carries on a march (computed at the least at 20 stone) they were then loaded with *picquet posts*, long *scythes* to cut down forage, and various other incumbrances; yet, thus equipped, were ordered to pursue, and charge the troops who were at that time advanced so much before them, that to discover even the *dust* occasioned by their line of march, required the *aid of glasses*; they however galloped off full speed, every man dropping alternately those extra appointments found at the time so cumbersome, and their route might have been easily traced by the scattered implements thus left behind them. The horses in a short time were completely blown, and returned, evincing by their short drawn breath, and stretched out necks, the folly of employing troops to skirmish as *buzzards*, intended evidently for far different purposes. The 11th, 15th, and 16th British *light dragoons*, with the Austrian hussars of *Barco* came up however, with the rear guard of the enemy's line, at the village of *Marcuoin*; but finding them retreating in a very soldier-like manner, having their *baggage* in the front, their *infantry* following, and their *cavalry* in the rear, the whole protected by their park of artillery, our troops were instantly obliged to sheer off, as from some field pieces, the Republicans commenced a brisk fire, by which a few of the dragoons were killed and wounded. In the village were found a small pieces of artillery, which were carried off. CLAIRFAIT perceived, upon crossing the Scheldt, at day-break, that the camp de Cæsar had also been abandoned in the night; and thus, instead of gaining any signal ad-

But the French (and I grieve such sad truth must be
 penn'd,
 Ever know to a tittle whate'er we intend)
 From the Camp de Cæsar, for Arras had retreated,
 And thus were friend HOHENLOHE's schemes all defeated.
 To encrease that fine farcical shew and parade,
 At Valenciennes, eight days all the troops were delay'd;
 Had we push'd on at once tho', I'm greatly mistaken,
 If these nimble-heel'd heroes had thus sav'd their bacon.
 Here the armies were parted*, hard fate had decreed,
 That ours should directly to Dunkirk proceed.
 From COBOURG †, his quota of men we receiv'd;
 And to leave him, believe me, we're heartily griev'd.

vantage by this irruption into the enemy's country, it only tended to delay the future operations of the allies; and the army, which had been suffered to escape, when, in some measure in his power, became afterwards sufficiently formidable to bid defiance to *Prince Cobourg*, to snatch the blooming laurels from his brows, and ultimately to nip his hopes of conquest in the bud.

* If ever any measure adopted in the present war was dictated by folly, and by an unaccountable and desperate insanity, it was surely *that* by which the irresistible force, which had been so happily consolidated, was checked abruptly in its glorious career, and frittered down to nothing, at the very moment when pushing forwards, and elated with victory, it might perhaps have terminated, gloriously, a contest, which has *since that period* produced only scenes of mortification and of disappointment. Every man with sorrow learnt the *unfortunate* result of that fatal consultation, by which the British army, and its subsidized auxiliaries, were withdrawn from the imperialists, under whose banners they had reaped so much well-earned applause.

† Whatever sapient reasons might have induced his Majesty's advisers, (if with them the plan originated) to undertake the siege of Dunkirk, *Prince Cobourg* was openly and decidedly against it; nay, it was at the time most confidently asserted, that he left the *council chamber*, lest he might afterwards be said to have sanctioned their proceedings by his approbation. When the

When united, all matters went smoothly of course,
 And our faces grew long on dividing our force.
 A country more beautiful never was seen,
 Than Cambrai's fertile province, thro' which we have
 been.

As far as eye reach'd, the full ripe waving grain
 Was courting the sickle, and gladden'd the plain !
 Had our orders been such, we had forely annoy'd
 Our foes, and great part of the harvest destroy'd ;
 But leaving it standing, our march to pursue,
 We proceeded, and took up our ground near Baissieu.
 Thy assistance, great God of the lyre, I invoke ;
 Oh, spare me a Muse (if there's one unbespoke.)
 My description to heighten, dispatch to my aid
 Some friendly, good-humoured, and kind-hearted maid ;
 She's here, and she begs I'll proceed with my story,
 Nor attempt with bombastical nonsense to bore ye.
 Oh Nymph most celestial ! thy will I obey,
 And grant me with ease still to " carol my lay."
 At Menin, the eighteenth ‡, were we told very much
 Of the valour and firmness evinc'd by the Dutch.

matter was determined, the imperial field marshal furnished his Royal Highness with a quota of 10,000 Austrians, under the command of *Gen. Dalton*. Prince *COBOURG*, after having ineffectually summoned *Cambrai* to surrender, filed off towards *Le Quesnoi*, a place, which from its situation on the frontiers, being nearly in a line with *Valenciennes* and *Condé*, was of infinitely more consequence to facilitate his future operations. The Duke's army approached the fatal place of its destination; passing through *Fecbin*, *Marchennes*, and *Roubaix*, and keeping the fortresses of *Lille* and *Douay* on their left, they arrived at *Turcoin* on the 16th of August.

‡ The British soldiers had just pitched their tents near *Menin*, and placed the crackling wood under their Camp kettles, to prepare some

That it might not by any who heard it be doubted,
 They themselves rav'd with voices *stentorial* about it.
 Told of many a Battery, strong Post, and Redoubt,
 They'd valiantly *storm'd*, and the French put to rout.
 In the evening, however, as pallid as death,
 An Aid de Camp gallopp'd in, panting for breath,
 Reporting detachments *no force* could repel,
 Which advancing from Lille seem'd to menace Lincelles.
 And, *semper paratus*, our little brigade
 With alacrity, cheerfully march'd to their aid.
 When arriv'd near the village,* we hunted around,
 But in vain, not a Dutchman was there to be found.

necessary refreshment, after a long and tiresome march, when orders were conveyed to the three battalions of guards, who were usually, in 1793, as General LAKE jocosely styled them, the *first-turn Boys*, to push on instantly towards the post of *Lincelles*, to co-operate with the Dutch troops, then in garrison at Menin, who had been all that morning engaged at their out-posts, and found themselves hard pressed by the Republicans. Regardless of their former fatigues, the brigade advanced so rapidly, that in little more than *one* hour from the time they had received their orders, they were at their place of destination, distant nearly *six* miles from their encampment.

* The brigade instantly moved forwards to a large *bean field* in the rear of the village, in which the crop had grown up so high, that it prevented the troops *at first* perceiving in what direction to proceed. They were, however, very soon relieved from their uncertainty, and saluted by a brisk discharge of grape-shot from some batteries in their front, which, as well as the village, was understood to have been in possession of the Dutch. General LAKE having in vain looked round for *his Allies*, was *then* convinced that they must all have precipitately abandoned the position, and retreated by some other rout. There was no time for deliberation, the men were formed in line, as regularly as circumstances and the nature of the ground would permit, and unappalled by the incessant showers of grape-shot, which descended amongst them, thinning their ranks at every fresh discharge, they rushed on, cheering each other with repeated loud huzza's, and leaping the ditches in front of the very embrasseurs from whence the pieces of artillery were vomiting forth the

Their late boasted courage had melted to air ;
 Such cowardice, Mars say, What deeds can repair ?
 The same page that brands with dishonour their name,
 The British records in the annals of fame
 With LAKE at their head ; who, belov'd and rever'd,
 Not less by his conduct than valour's endear'd
 To us all. That he headed the Guards at Lincelles,
 The annals of war to his credit shall tell.
 He rode down the line, and encourag'd his men,
 To charge and retake the redoubts once again.
 This wish was no sooner express'd than perform'd,
 And the works with the bay'net were rapidly storm'd,

dreadful harbingers of death, instantaneously entered the different batteries ere their enemies were able to escape.

At the point of the bayonet they drove them through the village ; and thus, in less than half an hour, were in possession of their guns, and recovered the different posts which by the Dutch had been so shamefully abandoned. General LAKE, convinced of the perilous situation of his troops, was extremely apprehensive, that their national spirit would urge them on in the pursuit, further than was prudent ; and, aware that the Republicans might rally, and perceive before what an inferior force they were by flight escaping, endeavoured to recall them, and at length succeeded, assisted by the commanding officers of the separate battalions, Colonels GRINFIELD, HULSE, and PENNINGTON, who severally obtained great credit for their conduct. The brigade, then forming in a steady line, with its centre in an orchard, and its flanks in the front of the village and redoubts, in which the British artillery-men were posted, sustained for some time a heavy cannonade, and were annoyed by a discharge of grape and round shot, putting them in a situation at all times irksome to the British, who cannot bear to stand in one spot to be pelted, as they term it, without a chance of returning their enemies the blows they deal them.

The French were then, however, on full march to Lille ; and their field pieces were drawn up merely to cover their retreat. At one period their officers certainly intended to lead them back to the attack ; as they had faced them round, and their orders issued to march on (" *marchez en avant* ") could distinctly and repeatedly be heard. A party actually approached a position where a six-pounder had been fortunately planted, covered by a detachment of the guards under Colonel WATSON, of the

By our hundreds, their thousands, like chaff by the wind,
 Were dispers'd, and great numbers of slain left behind.
 The business completely and quickly was done,
 Twelve pieces of cannon * were gallantly won.
 Here EVANS wast mortally wounded, and here
 A ball put a period to BOSVILLE's career ;

3d regiment, which gun, by opening upon them with-grape shot, and when, (as for a moment was the case) its ammunition was expended, the party, by keeping up an incessant *street fire*, obliged them to sheer off, and join their panic-struck companions. Had a small number of cavalry been at that moment advanced, the glory of the day must have been beyond measure complete ; yet the ground was so intersected with wide ditches, that they might perhaps have found it difficult to act ; but to British Light Dragoons in pursuit of any enemy, every obstacle appears trivial, and most easily surmounted. As it was, no previous or subsequent engagement, during the present war, upon however grand a scale, could be more brilliant ; nor has any one been so deservedly extolled as the affair of Liencelles, where 1,100 men drove back, in so spirited a manner, 5,000 of their enemies from formidable batteries, defended by large pieces of artillery.

* A serjeant of the 1st regiment of guards, upon entering one of the redoubts, found planted there, a tricoloured Republican banner ; and a French officer, who was endeavouring to remove it, instantly delivered up his sword, demanding quarter. The serjeant returned it, attentive only to the colours, which, when he was preparing to secure, the Frenchman aiming a blow at his hand, struck off two fingers, and attempted to escape ; his flight was arrested, and he was punished by the bayonet of a British soldier, who had witnessed the transaction. Such instances of a total want of every generous sentiment were at that period remarkably conspicuous amongst even the Gallic officers, who are not, as before the Revolution, famed for courage and humanity, but with very few exceptions treacherous and sanguinary in the extreme ; being, for the most part, at once pushed on to tread the rugged path of war, without deriving those advantages from education, which would teach them, that the first duty of men, entrusted with command, is to alleviate, rather than to add to all its horrors.

† When the Guards were forming in the *Bean Field* under a tremendous fire of grape-shot, the French had fortunately elevated their Guns, and they consequently did less execution than might naturally have been apprehended. In that Field, however, most of the men who fell, recei-

Sad tidings are these, for his newly made bride :
 Scarce married when hurried away from her side,
 At Honor's stern mandate he left her forlorn,
 Little dreaming, alas! he must never return.
 'Twas here too DEPIESTER's unfortunate lot,
 When serving his guns, thro' the heart to be shot.
 The second Brigade* to relieve us was sent,
 And to camp were our steps again joyfully bent.

ved their wounds; *Lieut. Col. Bosville*, whose Company suffered so severely, being the right of the Coldstream, in the *Wood* of St. Amand, was there fated to meet that death he had before so narrowly escaped. When forming his men in line, he was killed by a Grape-shot which struck him in the head. *Col. EVANS*, of the 1st. Regiment, there also had his thigh bone fractured, which in about six weeks deprived him of existence. At the same moment nearly, *Capt. CUNYNGHAME*, of the third, met with a very painful, tho' not as it has turned out, a dangerous wound. *Capt. WHEATHAM*, of the first Regiment, an officer who had repeatedly distinguished himself during the memorable siege of Gibraltar, was shot in the ankle, which wound has since proved more serious than was at the time apprehended. The other officers were slightly wounded, viz. *Col. Dogley*, *Capt. Archer* and *Bristow* of the first Reg. *Lieut. Col. Gascoine*, and *Ensign Bayley*, of the Coldstream; *Lieut. De Pieffer*, of the artillery, whose guns were attached to the 3d Regiment, was advanced to draw the attention of the French by his firing, while the works were stormed, and met his death from a cannon-ball, in the execution of his duty. He had seen much active service in America, was an officer of great professional merit, and fell deservedly regretted. The total loss of the British amounted to 3 officers, 2 sergeants, 1 drum major, and 35 rank and file, in killed; 8 officers, 6 sergeants, and 131 rank and file, in wounded. That of the Republicans could not possibly be ascertained, but was inconsiderable, as they retreated precipitately upon the first appearance of the guards, without attempting to withdraw their guns, or to make the least resistance, further than was necessary to cover their retreat. Sir JAMES MURRAY's dispatches state it, at between 2 and 300 men.

* Gen. LAKE had dispatched an aid-de-camp to the head quarters of his royal highness the commander in chief at Menin, informing him of the flight of the Dutch, and of the perilous situation of the guards; the second brigade, as well as some battalions of Hessians, were consequently ordered to support them, but could not possibly arrive till the affair was terminated. The Dutch troops having been also ordered to re-oc-

But the works, which with so many lives had been gain'd,
Were prudently only till day-light maintain'd.

This honor, my friend, as in general is thought,
Can never *by soldiers* too dearly be bought;
That's our Creed, or Lincelles would induce me to say,
'Twas a pity brave men should be lavish'd away,

copy their former position, the guards were permitted to march back to their camp; and the redoubts having been levelled with the ground, the post was early the next morning abandoned as *untenable*, being distant only two leagues and a half (about 7 miles and a half) from LILLE. The Dutch were so thoroughly ashamed of their behaviour, and so crest-fallen, that they slunk about, avoiding as much as possible the British soldiers; and the prince of Waldeck, who commanded the garrison of Menin, in a very noble manner, caught the first officer of the guards he met with the next day, by the hand, and after extolling the gallantry of the British soldiers (when surrounded by his own officers) exclaimed, "*Your glory is our shame.*"

According to every appearance the Dutch troops must have determined upon retreating, at the *very moment* they sent requesting reinforcements from the duke of YORK. A war of *Posts* should as much as possible at all times be avoided, as tending only to the effusion of human blood, without being of the least advantage to the general cause. Our enemies have in that instance offered us an excellent example, making it their constant rule never to *sacrifice a single man* by defending positions, which they at the same time allow to be untenable; and surely, for the loss of 185 British soldiers at *Lincelles*, we were but little compensated, by the artillery, ammunition, horses, and other articles, gained from the Republicans.

This attack might certainly have answered one good purpose, for the French were naturally induced to imagine that it was made preparatory to the investiture of *Lille*. Having on the 19th, paid the last sad tribute of respect to the memory of Col. BOSVILLE, Lieut. DE PIESTER, and the artillery men who had fallen belonging to his guns; for with a pious care too noble and praise worthy to pass from memory like to *the light transactions of the trivial day*, their comrades brought them from the field of battle, and prepared their graves close to the brave DE PIESTER's, so that they shared with him the funeral rites. The troops were once again in motion on the 20th, and passing through the town of Ypres, halted at *Boesyngebe*.

The Austrians, under prince COBOURG, had, on the 17th of August, succeeded in their attacks upon the *Bois de Mormal*, and gaining possession

I've only just time left to scribble adieu,
As the punctual Drum Major's already in view.

of the posts on the left banks of the *Sambre*, viz. *Folimerz*, *Loquind*, *Heeg*, and the other villages skirting the wood, constructed a most formidable *Abbatis*, and a long chain of batteries to protect them on the side of *Landrecies*, while they proceeded with the siege of *Le Quesnai*; they carried their point with a very trifling loss, not exceeding 60 men, while the Republicans lost 500 at the least in killed and wounded; several of their officers of rank, and 200 of their men, were also taken prisoners.

Every thing remained quiet on the banks of the Rhine after the surrender of *Mayence*, the Republicans having then fallen back behind the lines of *Weissenbourg*.

THE END OF PART I.

A
S K E T C H
OF THE
CAMPAIGN OF 1793.

PART II.

IN A
SERIES OF LETTERS,

FROM ONE OF

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF'S
AID-DE-CAMPS,

TO
MISS LUCY LOVEGROVE,

IN
ENGLAND.

DEDICATED TO THE OFFICERS
COMPOSING HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS'S FAMILY UPON THE CONTINENT.

"Arma virumque cano."

W. K. E. C. H.

CAMPAIGN OF 1793

PART II.

SERIES OF LETTERS

FROM ONE OF

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

AND DE CAMPS

TO

MISS LUCY LOVEGROVE

IN

ENGLAND.

DEDICATED TO THE OFFICERS

OF THE ROYAL ARMY AND NAVY BY THE AUTHOR

W. K. E. C. H.

DEDICATION.

GENTLEMEN,

UPON the appearance of the first edition of the Campaign of 1793, the second part of which contained Letters from *Head Quarters*, I can call to mind your astonishment; nor was my own surprise inferior: to see the very name of the lady to whom in confidence I had written, and also, in some degree, the very lines I had composed, roused in my mind suspicions, for which, my dearest LUCY, I here publicly request your pardon. With infinite pains and assiduity, I however soon discovered, that the only friend to whom I had read those letters, had a memory sufficiently retentive to write them down in his own tent, nearly *verbatim*:—What could then be done—they had appeared in an imperfect state, and some of the best ideas were, I found, omitted; in short, upon discovering that my friend intended to publish a narrative of the proceedings on the continent, I at length agreed to furnish him with the original letters, convinced, that in my remarks, I had followed the advice of our immortal bard, when he bids us

“ ——— Nothing extenuate,
Nor set down aught in malice.”

To you, GENTLEMEN, I therefore dedicate my portion of the work, as no men, save your noble selves, can judge whether I have described the pleasures of our situation with a faithful pen, or not.

TAKE them, therefore, under your protection, and be assured, that you will not find a line, a word, the offspring of ill-nature.

THE sprightly Muse may sometimes have induced her votary to relate the modes adopted to amuse our leisure hours; but she has not furnished him a single thought, he proudly boasts, that can reflect upon the soundness of his heart.

Believe me, GENTLEMEN,

With respect, regard, and every friendly sentiment,

Your faithful, and obedient

BROTHER ON THE STAFF.

A
SKETCH
OF THE

CAMPAIGN OF 1793.

LETTER I.

HEAD-QUARTERS, FURNES, *August 21, 1793.*

One of the Aid-de-Camps to his Royal Highness—Sooths the mind of his favorite Fair, and with a timid pencil traces the comforts of his situation.

WHAT honour, your hero! your champion! will
gain,
Sweetest girl! at the close of this brilliant campaign.
And be womanish fears to your bosom a stranger;
Our laurels are gather'd without any danger.
We're here at Head Quarters, as safe and as snug,
To use an old phrase, as a bug in a rug:
We breakfast, ride out, we return home to dine,
And drown all our sorrows in bumpers of wine.
When marching of course the best quarters we claim,
And our out-rider S-NT-C * chalks up with each name

* This gentleman, in various capacities, exerted himself with the most persevering activity in the service of his royal highness's family, (which term, it should be understood, comprises the staff and other officers, attached by good appointments to head quarters). He was, at the time these letters were first written, in the *Quarter Master General's* department, and his method of *chalking up* on the doors, the names of those officers who were to take possession of the best houses in the villages, through which the army passed, deserves to be recorded. The

S. A. R. which we know ev'ry comfort secures,
 And hardships an Aid de Camp never endures.
 Permit not your delicate spirits to droop,
 Nor fancy we're starving on bouillie and soup ;*
 For the mules† are so loaded with victuals and drink,
 That under their burdens thy're ready to sink :
 While the *fags* scarce a morsel of bread can command,
 We live at our ease on the fat of the land.
 Each day like the former, fleets pleasantly by,
 Each night at our ease in good houses we lie ,
Tents are voted no shelter to yield from the damp,
 And a village is better by far than a camp.
 The Cherub, whose pinions around me are spread,
 Will guard from all harm, ev'ry hair of my head,
 And to stifle your cares with a word, I'll be bold,
 To *weather it thus* without fever or cold.
 When *the guards* made that gallant attack on Lincelles,
 With fury on beef and plumb pudding we fell,

particular flourish too with which he formed the *talismatic S A R* (son aîléste royale) was frequently admired. He was afterwards *captain of guides*, then of the *waggoners* ; in short, it would have been impossible to have carried on the war without his friendly aid.

* *Soup* and *bouillie* was the usual diet of the *troops* while under canvas, that is, when sufficiently settled to have time to cook it. The *camp kettle* was generally open to receive whatever chance threw, in the soldiers way, and frequently, in quiet times ; as for example, at *Soltain*, where the tent pins were for six weeks unmolested, beef, mutton, *vegetables*, game, and poultry, were jumbled there promiscuously together.

Hodge podge I've joy'd with pewter spoon to carve,
 And thank'd my stars when suffer'd so to *starve*.

† A set of Hanoverian sumpter mules, employed to carry, on a march, cold meats, the service of plate, rich wines, and other necessary articles of refreshment for the family. The cooks, and servants (furnished also by Hanover) with the more cumbrous kitchen utensils, preceded these most useful animals, in large covered waggon.

And bumpers of burgundy jovially quaff'd,
 While the joke was giv'n out, and the family laugh'd.
 Undisturb'd by the cannons, which plough'd up the
 ground,
 Their roaring by ours, most completely was drown'd.
 When our wine became hot, we rode up to claim share
 In the glory, and prove that *we all* had been there.
 Remember, my charmer! I charge you once more,
 Look well to these letters, keep lock'd your scrutore,
 Nor read them aloud, lest some eve-dropper hears,
 But bear in your mind ever, "*Walls have had ears,*"
 In short, for the sake of your time-serving bard,
 Adopt as your motto, the words *prenez garde*.
 For to you, tho' thus frank, to the world we must brag,
 So LUCY don't let "*the cat out of the bag.*"
 Were you here, dearest lass! all these comforts to share,
 My raptures would pass what a mortal could bear,
 Exceed e'en the fabled enjoyments of JOVE!
 But whither would fancy delusively rove?
 She'd lead me *at once* upon earth to a Heav'n,
 Tho' here, for wise ends, perfect blis can't be giv'n.
 The mind is so form'd that we ever beseech
 The Gods to grant blessings plac'd far from our reach.
 Yet I swear, as I hate all thy tribe, O TENDUCI,
 I nothing could wish for, if blest'd with my LUCY.
 Hark! I'm call'd for—adieu, for *a season*, adieu,
 To your foldier prove ever love, constant and true.

LETTER II.

HEAD QUARTERS, LEFFERINCKHOUCKE,
NEAR DUNKIRK, Aug. 29, 1793.

*Plans for reducing Dunkirk.—Successful Attack upon the French Outposts.—Un-
comfortable Situation of the Family, and of the besieging Army.*

AGAIN shall we live, dearest Lucy, in clover,
For now the fatigue of long marching is over ;
And lucky it is, for their backs are so sore,
The mules would have dropp'd in a day or two more.
Warriors stand at all hours of refreshment in need,
And without them we plainly could never proceed.
For Britons resembling the Lion and Bull,
Wrestle best, you'll allow, when the stomach is full.
Our quarters are worse than they were at Estreux,
But our stay *will be short*, so we'll e'en make them do.
For our bus'ness we mean to dispatch in a trice,
And of Dunkirk's surrender you'll soon have advice.
'Twill be difficult *all* in good humour to keep,
For alas! *all* are forc'd under canvases to creep.
Our chieftain's *own tent's* pitch'd, and scarcely a nook,
Can the Aid de Camps meet with in Lefferinckhoucke.
We've constructed a camp in the fields round the farm,
And callicoe sheets keep us decently warm.
But a truce to digressions, my story again
I resume, and all plans for the siege will explain*.

* The allied forces under his Royal Highness the British commander in chief, were in motion on the 22d in the evening, and advancing in *three* columns, approached the French camp near *Gyvelde*. The Austrian regiment of Starhée, and O DONNEL's *fri corps*, forming the *avant garde*, met with considerable opposition, and lost, according to the Gazette returns, 50 men in killed and wounded. The Republicans were in the

For what's past, pray examine Sir J-M-IES last letter,
 Nought on earth can be clearer, or understood better.
 The army is fix'd where it's meant to remain,
 Till Dunkirk is ours, *that*, he proves is quite plain.
 And we mean to present this same town * to John Bull,
 Ere the horns of this moon shall completely be full.

and repulsed, and abandoned in the night, their camp; falling back upon their entrenchments (some orchards and gardens, where the fruit trees were so thickly planted, that the position has been called a *wood*) before the *walls of Dunkirk*. The British column, when proceeding slowly along the banks of the canal, were *benighted*, and forced to rest upon their arms near Gyvelde. It was not known by Gen. LAKE that they were intended to halt in that position, and the infantry expecting every moment to proceed, *dark as it was*, remained in a state of uncertainty, till the *batt horses* lay down with their *loads* upon their backs, and the *men* dropped many of them fast asleep. The next morning the troops reached *Teteghem*, and upon being informed by the peasants, that, most probably, the governor of Dunkirk would inundate the village, they fell behind it, encamping in the adjacent fields.

The behaviour of the Hessians was, upon this march, scandalous, and, in the extreme, disgraceful; not content with pillaging the cottages they passed, they sallied forth upon the cattle in the fields, and, with fixed bayonets, charging and destroying them, each severed off his favourite slice, and bore it away in triumph, with the blood running down his sides in streams, as it trickled through the *canvass bawlsack*. Many of them attempted to pass the British line of march, driving *large pigs* before them; but though their own officers *encouraged them* in this, from *ours* they met with blows and treatment such as their conduct well deserved. Their *women* entered every hamlet on the road, and after loading themselves till they could scarcely move along, would wantonly throw butter, cheese, and bread into the ditches, and after *tapping* all the barrels that they found, would let the beer and wine run out, and overflow the cellars. Can we wonder then that upon *the retreat*, the peasants rose upon the army?

That their officers conceived all this was right and *justifiable*, was evident, for at *Teteghem*, a *subaltern* was, on the 22d of August, detected by his *Royal Highness the Duke of York*, in a house which he had entered and pillaged, at the head of a party of his men.

* On the 23d, every thing was quiet, but on the 24th, an attack was made by the enemy upon the outposts on the downs, between the canal,

Such machines we expect, as surpass all belief,
 Invented and prov'd once before by M——F——
 Huge frames made of wood, but as light as a feather,
 That take all to pieces, and then put together.
 To be *knock'd up* in England and sent to us here,
 For dispatch is the soul of our chief engineer.
 When arriv'd, to erect them, one night will suffice,
 The fight will the foe both annoy and surpise.
 It only remains then to fill them with sand,
 To mount our large guns, and the ramparts command.

leading from Furnes, and the sea, when the allies, forming the Duke's army, were under arms; and a corps of *Austrians*, the *flank battalions* of the British *guards* and *line*; with the *Hessian* grenadiers, forming the *reserve* under Lieut. Gen. DALTON, were ordered to advance, and drive them from their posts before the town. The event was brilliant and successful, as the French were driven from their batteries and entrenchments, under the very walls of Dunkirk, through a country, with which the troops engaged, were entirely unacquainted, intersected with wide ditches, and impenetrable hedge rows, composed of sturdy pollards. Gen. DALTON was unfortunately shot towards the close of the day. He was of an Irish family, but had long been in the service of the emperor, and braved, under the imperial banners, the dangers of many a siege, and many a long campaign. As he fell, co-operating with our *forces*, the Duke of YORK obtained for his widow a considerable pension from the British government. The command devolved upon his death to Gen. ABERCROMBIE, and exposed to a very heavy fire from the ramparts of the place, the troops suffered most severely; Lieut. Col. ELD, commanding the light company of the 1st regiment of guards, was the only British officer killed; struck in the breast by a cannon ball, he instantly expired. He constantly wore the portrait of a lady in miniature, and it has been noticed, as a very extraordinary circumstance, that, though it was driven into the wound, upon being extricated by a surgeon, the portrait itself remained uninjured, while the glass and setting were demolished. Capt. WILLIAMS of the same regiment, and Lieut. WILSON of the artillery, were slightly wounded. The Austrians lost 170 men killed and wounded; the British 74. The Hessians had 1 captain, 2 lieutenants, and 13 rank and file killed; 1 lieutenant colonel, 2 lieutenants, and 36 men wounded. The advanced posts were then pushed on to within a short distance of the town, and batteries were constructed on each side of the canal.

Nay the musquetry, often M——r's been heard swear,
 He'll bring on their works in a few days to bear.
 We mean on all sieges in this to refine,
 No lab'ring at trenches, no sapping, no mine.
 And we'll carry our point, for the knowing ones say,
 Ev'ry plan must succeed, being *quite à l'Anglois!*
 No *Ferraris* can now to our projects object,
 But each *brilliant thought* will be crown'd with effect;
 And tho' there are fools*, who our councils molest,
 Declaring the place we should closely invest;

* It had been generally supposed by the officers of the Duke's army that the troops would have remained near Furnes, till the heavy guns arrived from England, and till the fleet under Admiral MACBRIDE intended to co-operate with the besiegers, hove in sight. The enemy would *then* have been left in a state of uncertainty as to all future operations; but when they perceived, that after barely allowing them time to repose, the tents were ordered to be struck, and they were *at once* to advance upon the town, information was supposed to have arrived of such a nature, as would permit *no waste of time*; and that the governor had either agreed to throw open the gates, or that the garrison was in such a weak and defenceless state, as to render a *coup de main* not only practicable, but advisable. In both these suppositions, they too soon found they were deceived; for without any of the preparations in *England* being *even* in a degree of forwardness, without a *single gun* heavier than a field piece, they had rushed on, under the very walls of Dunkirk, and then halting, gave the troops in garrison four and twenty hours to consider, whether they would surrender up the place or not. The little army thus advanced, generally computed at about 10,000 effective men, not being sufficiently strong for the investiture of the fortress, the governor made the best use of the time thus granted to him. The garrison was augmented, heavy guns were mounted on the ramparts, and supplies of every kind thrown in. Of what avail was then the bravery of the troops? and what was their situation the short time they remained before the place? The inundations increasing daily, rendered the ground, on which the British were encamped, a perfect *swamp*; fresh water became scarce, and so bad, that it was hardly drinkable. The only method to procure the most trifling supply, was by digging very deep for it, and *then*, after hours of hard labour, it became, in *a few moments*, brackish, and impregnated with *salt water*, which flowed in with every tide, and was prevented from return-

Nor leave it thus open to Lille and Cassel;
 'Tis nonsense, believe me, all things must go well.
 For FREYTAG*, *choice troops* has forth carefully drawn,
 The pride of his nation, not Hanover's spawn;
 And those reptiles, scarce worthy an English spun halter,
 Will fly before heroes from famous Gibraltar.
 We're wond'rous *alerte* too, and gallop each night,
 Till our steeds pant for breath, though their burthens are
 light:

For we're *feather weights* all, saving C-LV-RT and
 H-WG-LL,

And the latter's aye forming a *pen* from a new quill;

ing to the sea, by means of flood gates. The heavy guns came slowly *one*
 by *one*, up the canal from Ostend, there was no sign of the promised
 fleet, and the settled calm in the town, seemed only to portend a dread-
 ful storm.

* Field marshal FREYTAG commanded the *covering army*, consisting of
 the Hanoverians, and part of the Austrian quota furnished by Prince Co-
 BOURG, mustering in the whole about 12,000 men as was generally sup-
 posed, though some Hanoverian officers have computed it at only 9,000.
 He had succeeded in taking up his ground at *Hondschoote*, and thereby kept
 the garrison of Bergues pent up within their walls. On Mons Cassel the
 French, however, soon constructed a most formidable camp, sending thi-
 ther daily fresh troops from *Lille*, communicating with the town of Dun-
 kirk by *Gravelines*. The forts of St. André and St. Louis were also in
 their hands, and the besiegers had made their approaches on the Flemish
 side of the town where it was best defended.

An epidemical disorder very soon appeared amongst the troops, increas-
 ing daily, called the *Dunkirk fever*, which carried off the soldiers rapidly,
 though they suffered but little when on duty, from the shells aimed at
 their batteries, which were thrown with such force, that they generally
 buried themselves in the sand, and the fuses were extinguished ere
 they burst.

Prince COBOURG was at this period proceeding vigorously with the
 siege of *Le Quesnoi*; the allies had been successful in their various
 skirmishes on the left banks of the Rhine, and Gen. WURMSUR's head
 quarters were advanced to *Rhinxaberen*; on the 20th of August a severe en-
 gagement took place near the town of Lauterberg; no signal advantages
 were gained, though many lives were lost on both sides. The Republi-

While the country we scow'r, and the post reconnoitre,
Still B-NT-CK remains, for the dinner to *cater*.

Tir'd of padding the hoof in *the guards*, very soon
Against nature you'll grant, he became a dragoon.

For on horseback we find he 'as a ticklish feat,
Tho' fam'd as an excellent judge of good meat.

At croak of a raven, or chant of a linnet,
Should steed prick his ears, B-NT-CK's down in a minute.
The reason of this we can truly expound,
He's short in the fork, and his thigh's rather round.

None so active with us as Pr——ce J—N, and we're sure
From what he declares we are fully secure.

Just now, he's come down from a sycamore tree,
Where he's been for this hour with his friend the marquis;
And they plainly discover'd if fame reports true,

A man, *a la distance, habillie en bleu*,

A Frenchman of course, and I'll venture a bet,

A sentinel mounted, yclep'd a vidette.

That remains to be prov'd tho', but dinner I spy,

I scent *fricandeaus*, and must bid you good bye.

cans however abandoned several ammunition waggons, and 19 pieces of heavy artillery. The Duke of BRUNSWICK was at that time at *Homburg* in the duchy of *Deux Ponts*, and detaching Prince HORNLOHE to keep the enemy posted at *Neu Hornbach* in check, made a successful attack upon the camp at *Felsenbrunn*, where a corps of between 6, and 7,000 of the French had pitched their tents.

A general attack was made upon the Dutch posts by a column of the enemy, drawn from the camp of *Madelaine*, under the walls of *Lille*. *Lan-roi*, *Roubaix*, *Turcoin*, and *Rong*, were carried by the French, but soon retaken. Another corps advanced at the same moment upon *Weroicke*, where, experiencing a more formidable opposition than was expected, they precipitately retreated, unable to effect the passage of the *Lys*.

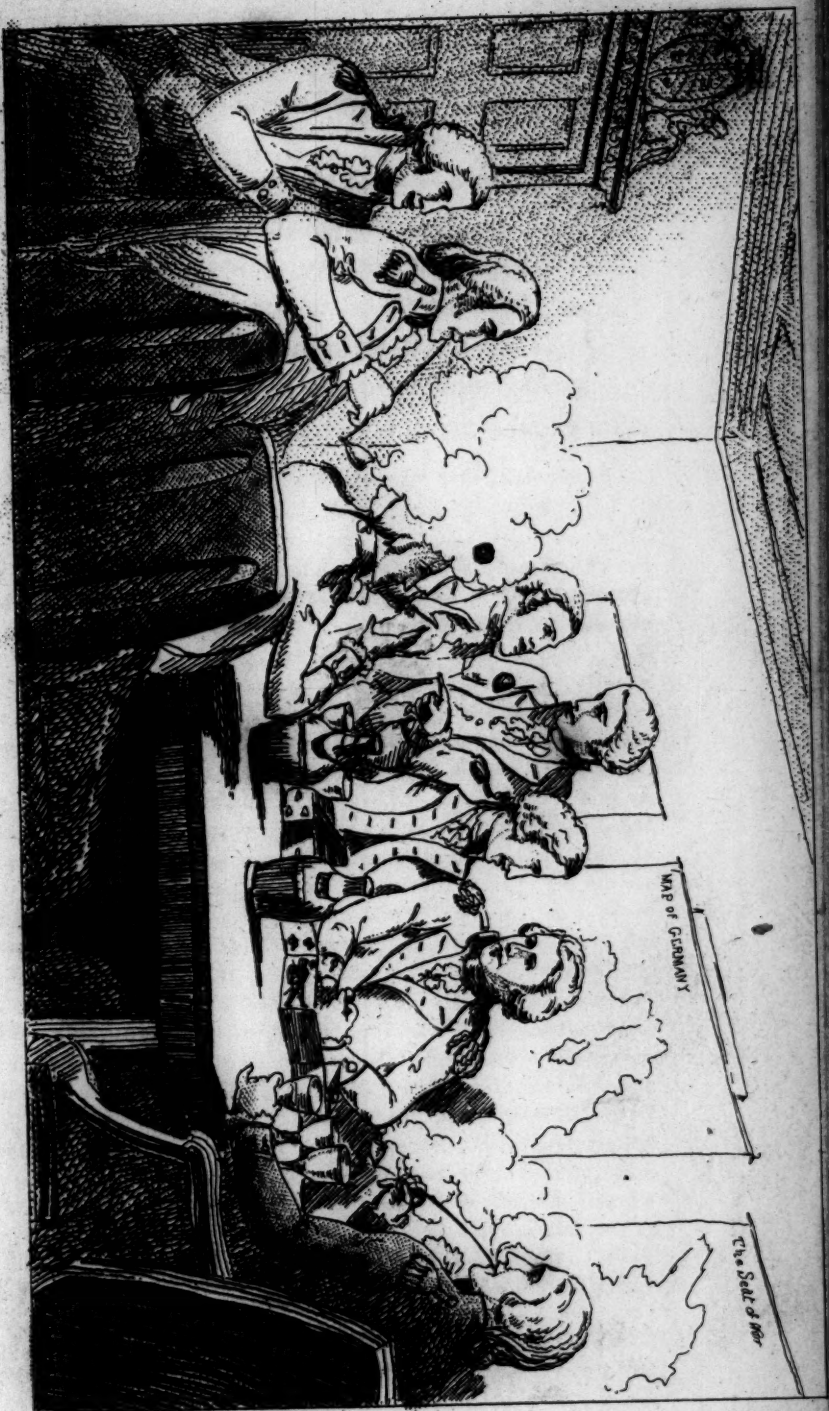
LETTER III.

HEAD-QUARTERS, FURNES, 9, Sept. 1793.

Defeat of the Covering Army—Consequent Retreat from Dunkirk.

ALAS, and alack ! all the fat's in the fire !
From Dunkirk in haste, we've been forc'd to retire.
The French from the place made a desp'rate sortie,
Tho' we verily thought that it never could be,
For so quiet those crafty Republicans seem'd,
That of such a misfortune no mortal had dream'd.
Nay, we fully expected each moment, dear LUCE !
O'Meara would send out a trumpet and truce.
But paddy kept snug till he found that HOUGHARD
Was able to offer old FREYTAG *his card*.
No language can paint all our grief and surprize,
And sorrow at once open'd ev'ry man's eyes.
E'en J-HN-T-NE, who all things can prove *upon paper*,
Perceiv'd at wrong end we had lighted the taper,
O thou ! who so well with thy pencil didst trace ;
Each approach that we made to this d--mn--ble place !
Tie crape round its top, as it marks our retreat,
And shews where we made the best use of our feet.
And no more shall *mock batteries** throw pellets of bread,
Like cannister-shot at your nice powder'd head !

* Great minds must at times unbend ; a *Prime Minister* has been known to chase a butterfly ; and it was a favorite amusement at head-quarters to *open batteries* with cherry-stones, or pellets of bread upon the D. Q. M. G. whose good nature was proverbial.



Favourite Amusement at Head Quarters.



Nor H—WG—LL, nor CL—NT—N, puff smoke in your eyes,

Till tir'd with their wit from the table you rise.

But let me my senses collect, to relate

What occasion'd this dreadful reverse in our fate.

Our ears were annoy'd by a brisk cannonade*!

And FREYTAC in haste sent, imploring our aid!

So we order'd some horse and our premier brigade.

But the French, ere their rout they'd pursu'd half a mile,
Sallied forth from the place in a spirited style!

* Early in the morning, on the 5th of September, Field Marshal FREYTAC made a successful attack upon the French post of *Ernecke*, on the river *Peene*, taking prisoners 5 officers, and 60 rank and file. On the 6th, the Republicans advancing from their camp on *Mons Caffel*, and their troops in garrison at *Bergues*, at the same time sallying forth, assaulted the Hanoverians at *Wormbout* and *Esquellberg*; and pouring down with a superiority of numbers, which at length became irresistible, carried those posts, ultimately possessing themselves of *Bambecke*, *Poperinge*, and *Roußbrugge*. A heavy cannonade continued all that day, and an aid-de-camp, from FREYTAC, was dispatched to convey to his Royal Highness the unpropitious tidings. The troops in camp were accordingly ordered under arms; about two o'clock in the evening, the guards passing *Lefferinckboucke*, were proceeding, as they imagined, to support the covering army, but a brisk fire commencing from the batteries on the right banks of the canal, it was found that the troops in garrison, (aware of *HOUGHARD*'s success) had sallied forth, and the brigade countermarching, was ordered to its former ground. The Austrian regiments of *Collredo* and *Jordis*, with the 14th British infantry, were then engaged most briskly, and the firing continued without intermission for a moment, till it was nearly dark. The French, when they began to waver, were pressed with so much spirit and success, that they precipitately retreated towards the town, and were followed up so closely, that had not their pursuers been recalled, they must have enter'd *Dunkirk* with them, both parties having reached together, the crest of the glacis. Then was the want of the long-looked-for fleet severely felt, for the French gun boats swept off great numbers of the allies exposed upon the strand to their incessant fire.

Which oblig'd us to beckon the Guards back again,
 And FREYTAG was left his own ground to maintain.
 Disturb'd at *our dinner*, we hasten'd to see,
 What the end of this popping was likely to be.
 Like lions! our troops fought, and soon made them fly,
 Tho' not without loss to themselves by the bye.
 MONCRIEF was the first who lay stretch'd on the sand;
 MONCRIEF, who for valour! our praise must command.
 Next MARCHAL, a soldier most highly esteem'd,
 And justly a loss to the family deem'd,
 But peace to the manes* of those who are dead,
 A tear for their fate we have forrowing shed!

* Colonel MONCRIEF was killed in his exertions to keep the gun boats in awe by the field pieces of the troops engaged; and Captain MARCHAL, an Hanoverian aid-de-camp, was mortally wounded, when conveying orders from his Royal Highness. Ensign M'DONALD of the 37th lost his life by a chance-shot, when on duty in the batteries. Captain GARNIER, Lieut. M'KENSIE, and Ensigns ELRINGTON, SMITH, and WILLIAMS, with volunteers DAY and M'GRATH of the 14th regiment, were wounded. A serjeant, and 9 rank and file, were killed. A serjeant, drummer, and 36 wounded. The other regiments of General ABERCROMBIE's brigade were but little exposed, the 37th having only 3 privates wounded, and the 53d four. The Austrians suffered more severely, they lost, according to their own returns, 150 men in killed and wounded.

FREYTAG, crossing the river *Yser*, fell back that night upon Hondschote, keeping the right flank of his army appuyé to a branch of the canal running from *Furnes* to *Bergues*, while his left extended to *Leysele*. His Royal Highness Prince ADOLPHUS, and the Hanoverian field marshal, were, during their retreat, both slightly wounded, and for a few moments in the hands of the Republicans; supposing a patrol of their own cavalry was in their front, they had entered the village of *Rexpoede* then in the enemy's possession. They were soon, however, extricated from their perilous situation, by a detachment of the troops under the command of general WALMODEN. FREYTAG's wound, though not by any means *severe*, obliged him to retire from the scene of action. Very little firing was heard until the evening of the 7th, when the French advancing once again, were in their turn repulsed. On the 8th, HOUGHARD

We all were that day in a great consternation,
 And each lost his wonted profound penetration !
 Ye Gods, we exclaim'd, all our wishes are crost,
 Our hopes at an end, and the town must be lost.
 Then orders* were giv'n that the siege should be rais'd,
 And a measure so prudent, most highly was prais'd.

having received the last detachment of those reinforcements, which, by *coaches, waggon, cabriolets, and carts*, all put in requisition for the purpose, had been dispatched from *Lille, Cambray, Douay, Arras*, in short, from every fortress in the north, poured down *en masse*, and forcing the centre of WALMODEN's line, (that General, then commanding in the absence of field marshal FREYTAG,) obliged him, with a loss which never has been ascertained, to fall back upon *Bulscamp*. On the 6th, 7th, and 8th, the returns of killed, wounded, and missing, in the Covering Army, amounted nearly to 8,400 men. One regiment, which had been in the morning of the 8th complete in officers, returned from the field of battle, in the evening, commanded by a junior ensign. The late Sir WILLIAM ERSKINE, with a part of his brigade of *heavy* cavalry, was stationed near Hondschote. His troops, however, owing to the nature of the ground, were not engaged, though *dismounted*, and formed ready to act as infantry.

* The moment that intelligence of the entire defeat of the covering army was received, orders were issued to the besieging army to *retreat*, and *those orders* were productive of more confusion than had *perhaps* before been ever witnessed. A very insufficient number of carts and horses were, with difficulty, procured to carry off the baggage. All the heavy pieces of ordnance that had been sent out from England, amounting in the whole to nearly 40 iron guns of a calibre, to carry balls of 24 pounds weight, with an immense quantity of ammunition, were abandoned to the enemy; however great the necessity for this prompt retreat, Lieut. Col. CONGREVE, who commanded the artillery, gave it as his decided opinion, that, with perfect safety, it might have been deferred for four and twenty hours, in which time he would have undertaken the removal of *those guns*. The rulers of the French nation were, however, of a very different opinion; and HOUGHARD, notwithstanding his success, was *guillotined* for not pouring down upon the besiegers, and driving them *into the sea*, after he had handled so roughly the forces posted to protect them. About midnight, on the 8th of September, the Duke of YORK's army was in motion; and the creaking carts had been so over-loaded, that the horses could scarcely drag them from the camp: at a snail's pace they at length proceeded, halting so frequently, that it was long

Helter skelter the baggage was pack'd up in haste,
On the backs of the mules quick their burdens were
plac'd;

And all the fufs that enfued, to describe, would require
The aid of the nine, and Apollo's own lyre.

How the French must have caper'd next day, when
they found

All the guns, wine, and baggage, we left on the ground.

before the column could be said to have gained ground. Near *Lefferin-
ebouke* the whole was some time detained, waiting for the third regiment
of guards, which had been, as well as the loyal emigrants, on piquet at
the village of *Teteghem*. Upon the arrival of that battalion, and the
picquets on duty in the batteries, the troops renewed their tedious
march. So much were they delayed by baggage-waggons over-
turning, and the various other circumstances, that they were the
whole night traversing a distance of barely *eleven miles*. Had they
been attacked in that situation, the result must have been unfortu-
nate, though the Republicans might not have been able exactly to have
driven them into the ocean, for they would have contended with men
who would, at that moment, have fought them desperately. The rear-
guard was conducted by the late Sir WILLIAM ERSKINE; and the loss
of the baggage fell chiefly upon the cavalry under his command. That
brave veteran exerted himself, on this trying occasion, to the utmost;
and no man could have possessed, in a higher degree, the confidence and
good opinion of his troops. He had, at that time, served in thirty-five
campaigns, without ever receiving the slightest wound, though his person
was upon every occasion as much exposed as that of the private soldier.

Between *Adinkerke* and Furnes, the army halted on the 9th of Septem-
ber. The baggage was then ordered to Ostend, and so much was dread-
ed the consequences of this unfortunate retreat, that the military chest
had been carried on board a frigate in that port, and preparations were
made to *embark* the stores there also. Several of the batt-men then pro-
ceeding with their carts and loaded horses, were overtaken by the tide,
and lost their lives; and many, who themselves escaped, were unable to
save, from the advancing waves, the property with which they were en-
trusted: while those who in safety reached Ostend, were, for some
strange and unaccountable reason, refused admittance to the town.

It was at the time reported, and in general it is now believed, that
the Duke's army, from the time his Royal Highness left Prince Co-
mourc, to undertake that siege, for ever to be grievously lamented, lost,
ere the retreat was made secure, by *fever*, the fire of the enemy, and
other misfortunes, at least 10,000 men.

Not to mention the heaps of good powder and ball ;
 But I ne'er should have done could I reckon up all.
 Sir J-M-IE the pen will resume without fail,
 So expect from that *wonderful scribe* the detail :
 To him I refer you ; suffice it to add,
 The family fav'd all the baggage they had.
 Our motions entirely depend on the foe,
 So none can divine where we're likely to go.
 But quarters so snug and so much to my mind,
 As those at Estreux, Where, alas ! shall we find ?
 For the present, heart-broken, I bid you farewell,
 But in hopes live, ere long, better tidings to tell.

(82)

LETTER IV.

HEAD QUARTERS, MENIN, Oct. 5, 1793.

*A Council of War.—Intrepid Determinations.—BEAULIEU seizes upon Menin.
A settled Calm succeeds a threatened Storm.*

TO and fro' tofs'd,* like waves by each opposite wind,
We are settled at length, much to ev'ry man's mind.
To be sure, we have had a most terrible dance,
To escape from these *devils incarnate* of France;
But the tables are turn'd, brighter prospects appear,
As LUCY, well pleas'd shall, and presently, hear:
At Thorout alarm'd by this dreadful narration,
That Mynheer, soundly thrash'd, had abandoned his
station†,

* To add to every other unfortunate circumstance attending the retreat from Dunkirk, Admiral MACBRIDE arrived at Furnes the very day the Duke's army had encamped near that town, so that the fleet had appeared in sight exactly at the moment when *all was lost*, and it could not possibly have been of any service.

The army was in motion at four o'clock in the morning, on the 10th of September, and took up fresh ground. On the 11th, intelligence arrived of an attack having been made upon Ypres; and the troops proceeded to the relief of that fortress, but they had scarcely reached Furnes, when an aid-de-camp brought intelligence, that the French had abandoned their enterprize, in consequence of a successful attack which the Austrians, under General BEAULIEU, had made upon their posts near Lille. On the 12th, the Duke's army moved towards Dixmude; and late at night on the 14th, formed *en Bevouac* near Thorout, having on the march been joined by the 19th, 57th, and a detachment from the 42d regiment from Ostend.

† A general attack was made upon the Prince of ORANGE's posts along the river Lys, on the 12th, and without making by any means a

Not conceiving it prudent or safe to remain,
 From Menin he fled, scow'ring over the plain;
 Which proves 'tis a false and ridiculous notion,
 That a Dutchman resembles a *snail* in his motion.
 'Twas thought, on this news, we should have a debate,
 So a council was held in the Chamber of State;
 Some voted to Bruges to march, or Ostend,
 Thinking all we could hope, was those towns to defend;
 But Sir WULLIE arose, with a steady grave face,
 And said, "De ye ken this fame Menin's a place
 Of the utmost importance, and troth I advise,
 That we march, and those d——n'd Sons of Licence
 chastise."

Aw our laurels by this, we at once shall regain:
 Having told ye my mind, lads, I'll sit down again."

proper resistance, the Dutch troops abandoning Menin, fell back upon Bruges and Ghent.

So greatly had the panic spread, that they took the horses from their guns, and galloped off in straggling parties, in a most irregular and unsoldier-like manner. Their flight through Courtray alarmed the inhabitants, and many of them naturally conceiving that the French were at the heels of their *defenders*, abandoned their property and fled to Bruges, where the commandant, finding the Dutch troops passing through the town, ordered the Ghent gate to be closed, and by that means detained them in his garrison. A cornet of their cavalry carrying the standard of his regiment, was met *alone on full gallop* along the *Chaussée*, leading from Courtray to Bruges, by a British aid-de-camp, who with difficulty prevailed upon him to check his speed, and relate the reason of his unaccountable appearance. "Venture not further," said the valiant standard bearer, "for we have been driven by a superior force from Menin; and the French must by this time be in possession of Courtray; for my part," he added, "I shall certainly proceed to *Sluys* in Holland, for all is lost, and there is now no nearer place of safety." It is also a notorious fact, for the narrator was a witness to it, that a Dutch officer, finding himself enclosed within the walls of Bruges, came pale and trembling to the quarters of the commandant,

The — smil'd applause : and Sir J-M-IE demanded
 Permission to speak, which was not countermanded.
 " 'Twas a pity," he said, " it appear'd to him plain,
 Our Allies were unable their post to maintain :
 But, we sure might *retake it*, or *let it alone*,
 He was much at a loss which *was best* to be done ;
 In short, what the —, might think proper to do,
 Was surely the *propereſt* plan to purſue."
 And J-HN-T-NE, PR-CE J-HN, nay *we all*, to a man,
 Declar'd he had ſtruck out a *wonderful* plan.
 The —, then triumphantly roſe from his ſeat,
 And ſaid, " 'tis reſolv'd—we'll the enemy meet."
 After which each man preſſing his couch for the night,
 In dreams gather'd laurels and *ſhar'd* in the fight.
 PR-CE J-HN, in a very great ſtyle, the next day,
 The orders gave out, and the troops march'd away.*
 But we heard, when our line had to Rouſſelair drawn
 near,
 The roaring of cannon, diſtinctly and clear.

and, *riſum teneatis*, falling on his knees before him, requeſted that the
 gates might be again thrown open, and himſelf be ſuffered to eſcape !

* On the 15th, at day break, agreeable to the determination of the
 council held at *Tborout* ; the troops were under arms, and advanced to-
 wards *Rouſſelair*, in order to co-operate with General BEAULIEU to re-
 take Menin, and the different poſts abandoned by the Dutch. Lieutenant
 General Erbbach, with 4 battalions of Auſtrian and Heſſian infantry, pre-
 ceded by 4 ſquadrons of Britiſh cavalry, pushed on to *Ledegheim* ; and
 Prince COBOURG, by the fall of *Le Queſnoi*, which place ſurrendered at
 diſcretion on the 7th of September, after he had defeated the French
 with a loſs of 3000 men, and 11 pieces of cannon, near *Villiers en Cou-*
chie, being enabled to push on towards *Lille* with a large body of troops ;
 it was determined to attack the Republicans in every direction, at once,
 and force them to re-cross the *Lys*.

And found to our joy, my dear LUCY I own,
From BEAULIEU,* thy champions *equality*, flown.

* Early in the Morning, on the 15th of September, the French, to the number of, from 12 to 14,000 men, advanced from *Wevelghem* to *Bisseghem*, attacking briskly the advanced posts on the left of BEAULIEU's army; that General, however, by dispatching speedy reinforcements, prevented the post of *Bisseghem* from being forced; when the Republicans had recourse to their numerous train of heavy artillery, endeavouring, by a tremendous cannonade, to dislodge the Austrians from their position behind the *Lauterberg*. At that moment their left flank was turned by a corps of Austrian infantry, led on by Captain MALKSHAM of the regiment of BEAULIEU, who immediately commenced a brisk discharge of cannon and of musquetry, with such effect, that they began to waver, and BEAULIEU, with the main body of his army, charging them in front, they fled precipitately. They were pursued to the very gates of Menin, and about four o'clock in the afternoon, the Austrians attacked the place with their heavy guns and howitzers, at the same time assaulting the ramparts at the gate of *Roussellair*: the enemy, without any further resistance, evacuating the town, re-passed the *Lys*, leaving behind them, at the bridge, a weak rear-guard. The Imperialists then entered Menin at the gate of *Courtray*, and General *Erbach* arriving with his corps, they crossed the river, when two of the *British* squadrons joined the Austrian Hussars in pursuit of the Republicans towards *Roneq*. BEAULIEU lost in this affair about 100 men, great numbers of prisoners were taken from the French, with artillery and ammunition waggons, and in killed and wounded they must have suffered severely, while great numbers were drowned in their endeavours to repass the *Lys*.

On the 16th, the Duke of YORK's army was in motion, and passing through the town, encamped near Menin, when the picquets were again advanced to *Wervicke*.

Prince COBOURG wishing to close his operations for the year with the reduction of *Maubeuge*, succeeded on the 29th of September in passing the *Sambre*, and in driving into the entrenched camp, surrounding the walls of that fortress, all the advanced picquets of the enemy.

The different columns of his army were in motion at day-break; CLAIRFAIT's crossed the river at *Berlaimont*, and meeting with very little resistance, took up a position near *Ameries*, between *Aulnois* and *Bachamps*. General Count COLLEREDO's passed over at *Pont* and *Hauumont*; and surprising the French camp near *St. Remi Malbati*, took possession of their tents, baggage, and 9 pieces of artillery: unable to pursue them, owing to the nature of the ground, only a few men were taken prisoners, and not above 100 killed and wounded. The Austrians of that column encamped between *Hauumont* and the *Bois de Beauport*.

In another direction, (above *Maubeuge*) General DE LA TOUR's column crossed the *Sambre*, between *Jeumont* and *Marpent*, taking also a

So we took up our ground without firing a shot,
 And safely and snugly possession have got.
 For a time, our good fortune I scarce could believe,
 As appearances often the senses deceive :
 But ye Gods ! we enjoy once again, it is true,
 Those pleasures we heretofore knew at Estreux !
 Good living, sound port girl, and nothing to do. }
 When retreating from Dunkirk, we felt very fore,
 But our crests are erected as high as before.
 At Head-Quarters a feldzeug appears in each hat,
 Tho' faith we've but little pretensions to that;
 For a feldzeug was never retreating obtain'd,
 But points out the champion who *conquests* has gain'd.

French camp by surprise, near *Requignies*; the troops in their pursuit of the Republicans, killing 300 men, according to Lord ELGIN's statement. This column then took up a position near *Cerfontaine*, occupying also the Bois de *Bonpere*, near *Rousies*; and its left flank extending beyond *Ferriere La petite*, communicated with the corps commanded by Count COLLEREDO. A fourth column advancing from *Charleroi*, under Colonel SECKENDORF, formed, without much opposition, near *Colleret*.

Thus, with a loss of only 50 men, in killed and wounded, the investiture of *Maubeuge* was happily effected.

On the 14th of September, an attack was made by the French upon the Duke of BRUNSWICK's position near *Pirmasens*. By a very judicious *manœuvre*, the Prussians surrounded their assailants, when 3000 men grounded their arms, and surrendered themselves as prisoners of war. The Duke then pushing forwards, surprised a French camp at *Bitche*, and burnt their tents and baggage found there. The attacks made by the enemy, were that day, as usual, general; and they were in every directions defeated. The regiment called the *Sans Culottes*, was cut to pieces by a detachment of the corps commanded by General Count KALKRUTH.

The Spaniards had also obtained a decided victory, near *Truillas*, on the 22d. The Republicans having, at seven in the morning, commenced the attack with an army amounting to above 20,000 men, divided into five columns. They were repulsed and defeated by the Spanish cavalry, and the corps of infantry, commanded by *Count de la Union*, and *Don Juan Courten*, with a loss, estimated in the Madrid Gazettes, at between 5 and 6,000 men, including 1500 prisoners, with ten pieces of cannon, several cart loads of small arms, and a great quantity of baggage.

Thank my stars, 'tis now fix'd when we close this campaign ;

The family *all* visit England again.

Together, dear LUCY, we then shall enjoy

Those pleasures of *London* which never can cloy.

En attendant adieu, may dull hours pass away,

Quick as thought flies, for lovers but ill-brook delay.

P. S. " There are," I can scarcely believe, but am told
 There are, " who *our secrets* pretend to unfold.
 And Sir J-M-IE forgot, as they *daringly* say,
 To order the transports *in harbour* to stay.
 He directions, I own, had receiv'd to detain
 The ships till he heard from St. James's again.
 And tho' to be sure when arriv'd at Ostend,
 His orders he did not *immediately* send.
 From this *petite distraction* he rous'd on the road,
 And sent off a post-boy to POPHAM's* abode.
 Nor was it his fault all the transports had fail'd,
 Having *much* to remember, his memory fail'd."

* Lieut. POPHAM, Agent of transports at Ostend.

LETTER. V.

HEAD-QUARTERS, ENGLEMONTAINE. Oct. 21, 1793.

An unexpected movement—Reiterated republican attacks en Masse, produce bad news from Clairfait—Consolation afforded by a good dinner—Retreat from Maubeuge—A Feu de joie.

OUR hopes to rest tranquilly snug, were in vain.
And faith *this* has proved a most bustling campaign,
All places to us tho' are nearly the same,
While the cooks can keep up and the mules fall not lame.
Inur'd to gall'd *Withers*, no torment they feel
From *use*, as fair Jane cry'd when skinning an Eel,
And *warbles* and *swellings* 'twere folly to heed,
As long as they're sturdily pleas'd to proceed.
As to me, I feel happy *new worlds* to explore,
And traverse those lands I may traverse no more.
For trav'ling, we're told, gives new force to the mind,
And pleasure as well as improvement we find.
Variety too, is our chief's darling passion,
So changing our Quarters *of course* is the fashion:
While F——x we are certain will never be quiet,
Till he gets a good chateau, if once he can spy it.
A propos—he has join'd us, I think, since my last,
And J-HN-NE's not pleas'd that he gallopp'd so fast.
For he thought he was sure to succeed poor MONCRIEF,
And F-x's appointment has fill'd him with grief.
Nay he swears tho' he's on the best terms in the world,
With the ———, he'll no longer have deputy hurl'd





A Council of War interrupted.

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In his teeth; but his office is fix'd to resign:
 Yet he'll keep it, as surely as I shall keep mine.
 Too well does he know all the charms of this life,
 To change and be rous'd by the four o'clock fife*,
 Which rouses the fags to parade till *broad day*,
 And with Grinney's delight whistles Morpheus away,
 Too well does he know *to the State* of what † use
 Are his talents and pencil their aid to refuse.
 No BOBBY your *fix'd resolution* revoke,
 When you talk of *retiring*, you mean it in joke ‡.

* At 4 o'clock in the morning, while the Duke's army was encamped at *Englefontain*, orders were issued for the line to be formed in front of the tents, and for the troops to remain under arms till dismissed by the commanding officers of corps. The guards were informed of the hour to turn out, by a solitary fifer, who marched, playing a dismal tune, along the streets of their encampment.

† A number of the Aid-de-camps, and officers on the staff, composing the family of His royal highness the commander in chief, voted the D. Q. M. G. to have been of great service to the army, and decreed him the honor of being *chaired*, to shew the *high sense* entertained of his abilities; accordingly, at the *Abbaye St. Martin a Tournay*, upon the British first advancing into Flanders, they carried him thro' a long suite of apartments, crossing their hands to form a seat.

The Cavalcade at length came to a door *found closed*, which pushing open, the Aid de camps advanced, ere they discovered their mistake, upon *Prince Cobourg*, *Prince Hohenlobe*—*General Mack*—, and other chieftains, forming with His royal highness *a council of war*; eager to retreat again as speedily as possible, they disengaged their hands, and left the *highly honored* Colonel to his fate, who, hurled from his lofty throne, was landed on the table round which the *warlike leaders* were assembled; who were thus alarmed and interrupted as the plate describes.

‡ This was the general opinion; but Col. JOHNSTONE, when the command of the 1st battalion of the 3d guards devolved upon him, by the promotion of Col. WATSON, to the rank of Major General, resigned his office on the staff, much to his credit. He had certainly been of great use to the brigade while in Holland, as he perfectly understood the language, having been formerly in the service of their High Mightinesses in the Scotch brigades. We have now to lament his death, which happened very suddenly, just as he was preparing to return to England on promotion.

As our lot was the posts on the Lys to defend,
 We conceiv'd, as I hinted, our labours would end.
 For the Carmagnols all, are more easily led,
 Against *blue* and *orange*, than British spun *red*.
 But our Horse were demanded by COBOURG the great!
 As the fate of Maubeuge became doubtful of late.
 So we forwarded kindly, our *infantry* too,
 That the one might disperse, and the other pursue.
 (The dragoons, by the bye, were the forces he wanted,
 That the foot would be welcome, we took it for granted.)
 And* packing them off without further delay,
 They halted at Camphain, to breathe by the way.
 Then our route we pursuing, reach'd Englefontaine,
 Where the news we receiv'd made each breast throb with
 pain,
 The dinner was ready *at four*, by the clocks,
 And *six* at the least, by the stomach of F——x.
 When tidings were brought that the knives, forks, and
 plates
 Were delay'd by some ill natur'd prank of the fates;
 And a dust cover'd Kaifer reported † CLAIRFAIT,
 Had been briskly attack'd, and was forc'd to give way,

* The movement of the army from Menin, took place at day break on the 10th of October, the troops were that night cantoned at *Espabourg*, *Pecq*, and other villages towards *Tournay*; on the 11th they were encamp'd on the plains of *Cisaine* near *Campbain*, and halting till the 14th, marched and were cantoned at *St. Amand*; on the 15th they were encamp'd at *Soltain* near *Valenciennes*, and on the 16th they took up a position near Englefontaine, between *Le Quefnoi* and *Landrecies*, previously occupied by some Austrian Regiments which were advanced to reinforce CLAIRFAIT.

† The Austrians, composing CLAIRFAIT's column, had been incessantly engaged from the 15th, and though repulsed with great slaughter,

That the siege would most likely, e're morning, be rais'd!
 At this you may fancy we all were amaz'd.
 None can state what affliction had follow'd I'm sure;
 But the found of a *waggon* effected a cure,
 For the waggon contain'd the knives, forks, spoons, and
 dishes,
 And dinner soon follow'd to crown all our wishes,
 Our places we took, and each man had his share
 Of *ven'son*,* *mock turtle*, *soups*, *turbot*, and *hare*.
 No more did we think of Maubeuge or CLAIRFAIT,
 But drank off our wine, and retir'd till next day.
 Two boys on a plank you must often have seen,
 This pois'd high in air, on the ground that has been :

and a loss of 12 pieces of cannon, the Republicans renewed their assaults with fresh troops, favoured by an impenetrable forest, (*La Haye d'Avesnes*) the skirts of which they had defended by numerous pieces of heavy artillery.

Against the left of Gen. CLAIRFAIT's corps, their efforts were directed, and after having been repeatedly driven from the village of *Wattignies*, they ultimately pouring down *en Masse*, carried and maintained the post. All communication between this column, and that commanded by Gen. De la Tour, observing the entrenched Camp near Maubeuge, being thus cut off, Prince COBOURG thought it expedient to abandon totally his enterprise, and raise the siege; accordingly at night, on the 18th of October, the Austrians crossing the river, took up a position on the left banks of the Sambre. Twenty four pieces of heavy Cannon and two Howitzers were taken by the Austrians, in their several engagements; the system of *defending guns*, has, indeed, been long exploded by the French, for they at all times think themselves repaid for the loss of their Artillery by gaining a few additional shots at their opponents; continuing therefore to fire till the *last moment*, they frequently abandon their field pieces.

CLAIRFAIT lost at least 2000 men in killed and wounded—It was reported confidently at the time, that, when the different corps of Austrians were in motion, the French dreading the consequences of a general attack which they conceived Prince COBOURG to have meditated, abandoned their entrenched camp; if so, at the *same moment* both armies must have been retreating.

* An exact Bill of Fare.

Quick as thought they've chang'd places and balanc'd so
well,

No eyes could discover which rose or which fell.

So, good news *on bad* flowing fast, left us here,

Not knowing if *luck* or *misfortune* was near.

We determin'd, at length, by a brisk feu de joie,

The effects of Prince COBOURG's retreat to destroy.

And prove the advantage we'd clearly obtain'd,

As WURMSER the lines had at Weissenbourg gain'd *.

Thrice we fir'd in the air, thrice like heroes huzza'd!

So loud it must surely the French have dismay'd.—

O, winter with icicles crown'd come, to Ghent

Drive the Fags, and let us, Gods! to England be sent;

How I pant for the period when lock'd in your arms,

I shall find a reward for these dreadful alarms!

* At three o'clock in the morning, on the 13th of October, General WURMSER made his projected attack on the formidable lines extending from *Lauterbourg* on the left banks of the Rhine, to *Weissenbourg*, and the event, after an engagement of fourteen hours, was brilliant and successful. By assault, the *Austrians*, in six separate columns, carried the numerous redoubts which had been constructed in front of the Republican encampments. When the largest was taken the tents were all found standing, and the colours flying in the front, which, with 26 pieces of artillery of a large Calibre, and a great quantity of ammunition, fell into the hands of the Imperialists.—The town of *Lauterbourg* was abandoned by the enemy, and taken possession of about 4 o'clock in the evening. *Weissenbourg* held the assailants at bay for several hours; from the redoubts by which it was defended, the French kept up a heavy and incessant cannonade, and part of the town was burnt before it was evacuated, the Republicans set fire to all their Magazines both in the place and at Alstad.

The total loss sustained by Gen. WURMSER, was estimated at between 7, and 800 men in killed and wounded, while the Republicans were reported to have had above 3,000 killed, and near 600 prisoners were taken by the Austrians: intelligence of this event was forwarded to Prince COBOURG, and the Duke of YORK, at the very moment when the Imperialists, before Maubeuge, had received their orders to cross the river Sambre, and a feu de joie in consequence was fired just as the *siege* was raised, which might have been distinctly heard by the French garrison of *Landrecies*.

LETTER VI.

HEAD QUARTERS, ABBAYE, ST. MARTIN,
TOURNAY, Oct. 26, 1793.

*The Aid de-Camp enraged, informs Miss Lucy of the Insolence discernable in
Camp.—High Treason defined.—Adieu to St. Martins, Adieu to Tournay.*

'TIS strange all the malcontents gather and join,
To blame us for quitting the plains of Ciffoing*.
And say that the safety of Flanders depended,
On having that frontier completely defended.
'Tis a comfort however, this proves very plain,
Their censures are groundless, and this I'll maintain.
A foldier *on service* must hardships endure,
And has no right to grumble, or mutter, I'm sure.
Tho' forc'd in cold weather to sleep on the ground,
The tents left behind, and no straw to be found;
With scarcely a batt horse allow'd in the line,
He came here to suffer, and wherefore repine?
He rather should glory, to smart in a cause,
That crowns his commanders with well earn'd applause.
Who can judge by events too, when oft LUCE, mere chance
Proves we're forc'd to *retire* where we meant to advance,
The chapter of accidents, thus without doubt
Alone, from Menin our confederates forc'd out.

* The possession of the plains of *Ciffoing* was deemed of infinite consequence to the allies; they were particularly favourable to Cavalry and from their central situation as well as their proximity to Lille, (*the village being only 3 leagues and a quarter from that fortress*), troops stationed there could, in a short time, advance to any point menaced by the enemy.

Else Hanover's heroes, bewhisk'ed and fierce,
When the French push'd in *carte* would have answer'd in
tierce.

Not a man would have shewn such a dastardly soul,
As to dance like the Dutch when they pip'd *Carmagnol**.
Apropos, list to what has been said of Mynheer,
By these croakers illib'ral, and ever severe;

* "We have made them dance the *carmagnol*" is an expression very commonly made use of by the Republicans, when boasting of their victories. The inhabitants of *Menin*, when the Duke of YORK's army had received orders to move from its position, covering that town, foretold, that the moment the French were acquainted with the departure of the British, they would pay them another *civic visit*, and many of them wisely removed their property. As they suspected, the advanced posts of the corps left in that position, composed of Hanoverian troops and Austrians, were, on the 21st of October, assaulted, and the chief efforts of the Republicans were directed against *Wervicke* and *Mount Hallum*; the latter overlooks *Menin*, and once possessed, renders the place in some degree untenable. Though repulsed in their first advances, renewing their attacks, they, on the 22d, carried *Wervicke*, when, without defending *Mount Hallum*, the allies took up a position to protect *Courtray*, once more abandoning *Menin*, notwithstanding its works had been repaired, and new ones constructed with great labour. *Cissing* was at the same time menaced by detachments from the camp of *Madelaine*, and the posts of *Willem* and *Nomain* were forced, but on the 23d, retaken. Their unsuccessful efforts in that quarter cost the French at least 400 men, and the Iniskillings, with the 16th regiment of British light dragoons, assisted to repulse them. A column had also advanced from *Lille* upon *Orchies*, but was driven back by the Austrians under Gen. KRAY, with a loss of five pieces of artillery. These attacks were made in every direction at once by orders from the National Convention, and on the 22d, detachments from their camps near *Dunkirk*, possessed themselves of *Furnes*, advancing upon *Nieuport*, where they were checked in their career by inundations. *Fort la Knocke*, and *Dixmude*, were at the same time abandoned, and the troops protecting them, fell back to *Tboront*, covering the town of *Bruges*.

Intelligence of Flanders being thus seriously menaced, arriving on the 23d, the Duke of YORK's army quitted *Englefontaine*, and counter-marching, was again encamped near *Valenciennes*.

Who in council assembled, in *central tent*,
 To their splenetic humours give snarlingly vent;
 But let them beware tho' they're free with the Dutch,
 Not to loosen the reins of their tongues over much;
 For we've *mark'd them*, and LUCY, *promotion* is sweet,
 So those free-spoken gentry had best be discreet.
 They'd use ORANGE's men they declare, as smok'd cheese
 Is by dairy maids us'd, who on mice wish to seize.
 For the Dutch would as surely French armies entice
 To a snare, as smok'd cheese would draw pilfering mice.
 Their allusions are clear as the sun in full blaze;
 They'd as well say at once our allies *run all ways*, }
 And ergo receive *tant des visites Françoise*. }
 Such insolence raises, I own it, my passion,
 And I can't for my life, forbear laying the lash on;
 Till the ground was mark'd out, as we're told they
 complain,
 At having been drenç'd* a few hours in the rain.
 As if we the elements rul'd, and with ease
 Could call down fine weather whenever we please.
 The fact was, to please the good folks à *Tournay*;
 In the evening we loung'd to a box at the play,
 And debating on measures to prosper the state,
Midnight oil was consum'd, nor was *down* press'd, till late;
 And thus, by a trifling indulgence in bed,
 These unmerited censures—drew on his head.

* On the 24th, the tents were pitched at the *camp of Maulde*, near *St. Amand*, and at 3 o'clock in the morning on the 25th, the troops were put once more in motion. The distance they had to march not exceeding 8 miles and a quarter, they reached their ground at *Eer*, near *Tournay*, much sooner than, according to all appearances had been expected, for halting on the *Cbauffée*, they were for some time exposed to drenching rain, before the lines of the encampment were traced out.

To ev'ry department they'd lay down the law,
 And canvas the bread, nay the forage and straw;
 'Tis envy, sheer envy, that loud makes them cry,
 And induc'd them an Aid-de-Camp's cart, by the bye,
 To turn out by main force from their line, 'twas *high*
treason,

And this was, forsooth, what they gave for a reason.
 Their own were by *orders* forbade to be there,
 And a *family man* in their hardships should share;
 Yet nothing could equal his great condescension,
 To his *ci devant reg'ment*; and wondrous attention,
 As he pass'd by some officers chatting together,
 He said " How d'ye do, and remark'd 'twas fine weather."

BR--K W-TS-N they tell us, his deputies too,
 Has left all his intricate bus'ness to do,
 And *hopp'd off* to Bruffels, le cœur toujours gaîe,
 While the horses look pitiously round them for hay.
 So sharp are their ribs, and so rough are their coats,
 You perceive that they've tasted more whipcord than oats *.

But BROOKEY will tell them a *plausible* tale,
 And make them believe that a flail's *not* a flail !

To Camphain† to morrow our rout we pursue,
 And bid to the monks of St, Martin's adieu.

It grieves me to leave the good fathers I own,
 Where such comfort and real enjoyment we've known,

* When at the camp of Maulde no forage could be possibly procured for the worn-down and jaded horses, till the batt men with difficulty procured a very scanty portion from the *Austrian commissaries* !

† The plains of Cissoing were, it was apprehended, in possession of the French, who had established posts along the *marque* from Lille. To re-occupy those plains, and to retake *Menin*, the Duke's forces were, on the 27th, in motion, and advanced towards Camphain.

While Flanders was thus threatened with invasion, the accounts of General WURMSER's operations on the left banks of the Rhine were

This change, tho' unpleasant, I'll bear like a man,
 And make myself happy as long as I can.
 All the news, when we're settled, my charmer shall hear,
 'Till when, I remain, her adorer sincere!

favourable. *Haguenau* was evacuated on the 17th of October, and the Republicans retreating took up a position behind the river *Zorn*, which runs through *Brumpt*. Perceiving an interval between the advanced corps (amounting to about 6 000 men, formed under *Gen. Mazzaroe's*) and the main body of the Austrians, which had pushed on, upon the fall of *Haguenau*, the French passed the river, and with their whole force assaulted *Gen. Mazzaroe's*, with a view, by gaining his flank, of cutting him off from the grand army. After an engagement of seven hours, upon *Gen. WURMSUR's* moving forwards, they recrossed the *Zorn*, with a loss of above 800 men in killed and wounded, evacuating the heights and town of *Brumpt*. *WURMSUR* in this affair sustained a loss of near 400 Austrians. The Prince of *Waldeck's* corps at the same time advancing from the post of *Seix*, along the Rhine, took *Drugenheim*, and driving in the outposts, effected the investiture of Fort Louis. The troops behind the *Zorn* retreated in the night under the very walls of *Straßbourg*, and *Gen. WURMSUR's* army encamped within 3 leagues of that strong fortress.

LETTER VII.

HEAD-QUARTERS, CAMPHAIN, Nov. 8, 1793.

Advance to Camphain.—Affair of Lannoi.—Recapture of Menin.—Spirited Defence of Nieupoort.—Redemption of Flanders.—Close of the Campaign.

“ ARMS and the man I sing,” whose Veteran bands,
Redeem'd from Frenchmans' gripe, fair Belgia's lands!
O! to describe the scenes, my muse descend,
An humble votary for once befriend.
Aid him to shew what valiant troops could do,
And let his praise their glorious steps pursue.
Say, how they drove the foe from Cissoing's * plain;
Their speed impeded by the heaps of slain;

* On the 27th of October, an advanced squadron of the 2d, or Queen's regiment of dragoon guards, fell in at the village of Sanghin, with a picquet of French infantry, formed of 6 officers, and 150 men, on their retreat across the plains towards *Lexernes*. They killed near 50 on the spot, and with their broad swords cut up the rest in such a manner (as they had formed a hollow square, and made a brave defence) that not above a dozen men escaped unhurt. In a most mangled state, nearly 100 miserable objects were brought as prisoners to the Duke's head-quarters; another squadron of the *Queen's*, and some Austrian Hussars, having joined in the pursuit. The latter troops, keeping back till their enemies were thrown into confusion by the British charge, were then guilty of most unpardonable cruelties, for after cutting with their sabres till they had tired both hands, by way of *respite* from their labours, they drew their pistols from their holsters, and fired into the heaps of wounded. Every possible assistance was given to the suffering Frenchmen at Camphain, all the surgeons in the camp were sent to dress their wounds, and his Royal Highness, the commander in chief, humanely ordered wine and food to be distributed amongst them, ere they were carried off to Tournay. Instances of ferocity, and more than savage barbarity, in the light cavalry of his Imperial Majesty, were very frequent: the following is one amongst a number that occurred during the Campaign of 1793. They were generally entrusted with the conveyance of prisoners, and one of

Till mercy bade the conquerors forbear,
 And as they knew to vanquish, know how to spare.
 My heroics must charm you, dear LUCE, I contend,
 Yet I think to my old style again I'll descend.
 The sublime to the Cheese Mongers passeth away,
 While CRAMBO like this, lives its year and a day.
 Be it mine to compose then in durable lays,
 As I ne'er could the drooping survive of my bays ;
 One sprig, midst my laurels will flourish I hope,
 Tho' I aim not with Anna Matilda to cope ;
 Nor have I, like fair Laura, my Trumpet, to tell
 How my works are admir'd, by that *Oracle BELL* !
 Permit not, dear LUCE, any blue stocking dame,
 To bandy about my unfortunate name ;
 Where DELLA's triumphantly seated in state,
 Spare, spare me the curse, on his nod to await.
 Rather into the sea let my letters be thrown,
 To NEPTUNE directed, and *pendant* a stone.
 But I feel myself rous'd, 'tis a call from the Muse,
 And your time with digressions, no more I'll abuse.
 Most wonderful feats * since my last we've achiev'd,
 Have re-taken Menin, and Nieuport have reliev'd.

them having charge of a wounded officer, reined in his horse as he was conducting him, and presenting a pistol and ball cartridge, ordered the unfortunate Republican to load and then return it. His wishes were complied with, and the wretch, in cold blood, blew out the unprotected Frenchman's brains with the contents !

* General WALMODEN had, on the 26th of October, advanced to Courtray, and placing himself at the head of the forces which had re-occupied the camp at *Menin*, an attack to re-occupy that town was, under his directions, intended to have taken place upon the 28th, in conjunction with the corps under General BUSHE, at *Warcois*, and that commanded by the Hessian General DE WURMB, near *Thorout*. The Republicans, however, crossing the canal of *Ypres*, and approaching *Nieu-*

Driv'n the French from Lannoi, in a style Brittanique,
 And depriv'd of five guns *La Nouvelle Republique*.
 But my friend, in whose temper is seen to unite
 The lion and lamb lost his arm in my fight.
 In the field, who on earth more courageous could be,
 In camp who so mild, who so gentle as he?

port, General DE WURMB fell back upon *Ghistel*, to cover Bruges and Ostend; consequently the attack on *Menin* was delayed.

Nieuport was garrisoned by the 53d regiment of British infantry, mustering at the time about 4,000 men, and two weak battalions of Hessian infantry, under Colonel DE WURMB, the commandant. The first approaches to invest the fortrefs were made by two columns of the Republicans from *Dunkirk*, upon the 22d of October; and the Emigrants and Hessians occupying *Furnes*, were, after making a very steady resistance, driven back by a superior force. Under a heavy fire kept up upon them, till they reached the very gates of Nieuport, they retreated in the greatest order. A few shot and shells were then discharged against the town; the besiegers, however, without having done much damage, were driven back by the firing from the ramparts. In the night they constructed a temporary *banquette*, and mounting a few field pieces and howitzers, after an ineffectual summons, on the 23d, fired briskly on the place. Recourse was then had to the inundations, which obliged the Republicans to change their ground, and filing round by *Furnes* they took up a position on the coast side of *Nieuport*. Advancing to the number of about 2,000 men, upon the 25th, they carried several of the *out-works*, keeping up an incessant fire of musquetry from day-break till five o'clock in the evening, when darkness forced them to desist. The 53d lost on that day *Lieut. Latbam*, and 12 rank and file in killed, and *Capt. Ferguson*, and 32 in wounded. Under cover of a farm house, and an extensive barn, the French constructed in the night, a formidable battery, and at day-break on the 26th, opening several heavy guns and mortars, commenced, and incessantly continued, the bombardment of the fortrefs, which was much destroyed, and many of the houses converted into heaps of ruins.

On the 28th, the firing was particularly brisk, and on the 29th, Sir CHARLES GREY having arrived with reinforcements at Ostend, dispatched Major General DUNDAS with the 42d regiment, and 4 light companies to support the garrison; ammunition and a supply of men were also forwarded by Admiral M'BRIDE. They arrived about noon, and in the night the troops discovered from the ramparts, that the farm house was in flames, as well as several barns and other buildings in the rear of the besiegers. This circumstance induced the commandant to think they had retreated, which was at day-light on the 30th, found to be the

My sketch, sure, most clearly, must THORNTON* display,
His name I insert, as it honours my Lay ;

case. They left behind them 4 of the British iron 24 pounders (abandoned on the retreat from *Dunkirk*) and 2 mortars.

In addition to the British killed and wounded on the 25th, the 42d had on the 29th, 1 serjeant killed, and 2 men wounded. The Hessians had 4 privates killed ; 4 officers, 1 surgeon, 5 serjeants, and 29 privates wounded. Captain WILSON of the British artillery, and about 30 men under his command were constantly employed, both day and night, and gained the highest credit.

From the extent of their encampment, the forces collected for this enterprize, could not have amounted, it was thought, to much less than 8,000 men. Had Nieuport fallen, the French would have immediately advanced upon Ostend, where, as it was the principal *depot* of the *British army*, they would in a *few hours* have burnt the stores and shipping in that port, which could not possibly have been removed. The spirited defence, therefore, made by the garrison of Nieuport, and the timely arrival of Sir CHARLES GREY's forces, saved *many millions* to this country.

* The recapture of Menin being still determined upon, as a measure absolutely necessary ; reinforcements were sent to Lieut. Gen. BUSHE, who had regained the post of *Moucron* ; and Genl. WALMODEN was directed on the 29th to advance upon the town, while General BUSHE, with his corps, attacked *Mount Hallum*. To create a diversion, and draw the attention of the Republicans from the real object of the confederates, two battalions of Austrians, with two twelve-pounders and some howitzers, under the command of Major General *Werneck*, with the flank battalion, and that of the 3d regiment of British guards, a squadron of the 11th, and one of the 15th light dragoons, with also two 12-pounders and some howitzers, forming a detachment under the direction of General ABERCROMBIE, proceeded to attack *Lannoi*, which the French having defended by entrenchments, occupied with a force of 1,500 men. The twelve-pounders were brought up within a small distance of the town, and a brisk, and well directed fire commenced, which was answered by the French ; Captain SUTHERLAND acting as engineer in chief, was struck by a cannon ball, while riding in front of the 3d regiment of guards, he survived his wound but a few moments. Lieutenant THORNTON had the direction of one of the twelve-pounders, from which he had, with great effect, kept up an uninterrupted fire upon the enemy ; it was thought right to bring up to that point a howitzer, and the moment his gun was silenced *on that account*, he perceived the French artil-

Yet tho' true to its aim, was the mischievous ball,
 That he still may survive, is the wish of us all.
 We've to mourn too the fall of our chief engineer,
 Urg'd by zeal forth he fallied, a brave Volunteer !
 Much merit accompanied *Sutherland's Shade*,
 And dearly, alas, for his valour we've paid.
 So alluring his manners, full many a tear,
 When his fate is announced, will be dropp'd on his bier.
 As Grimalkin prowls forth, when by shadows of night,
 Conceal'd, timid mouse from thy far piercing sight ;
 With caution draws near, of her prey making sure,
 When most she had fancied the covert secure :
 Or, as sportsmen in silence the thickets surround,
 And spread their close nets, when the covey they've
 found.

lery-men *traverse* the one opposed to him; and they took an aim so accurate, that his right arm was carried off upon the first discharge.

Upon the guns being advanced still nearer to the town, the French in garrison gave way, filing off in two divisions towards *Lille*, and towards *Roubaix*. The light dragoons were called for, and pursued them, charging over trees which had been cut down, forming a kind of abbatis before the place. Nearly 100 men were killed and wounded by the cavalry, and they returned with 59 made prisoners. The Austrians took also near 100 prisoners, and the *Gazettes* computed the total loss of the Republicans at between 2 and 300 men in killed. The Imperialists and British troops suffered but little in comparison, as the place was carried entirely by a *cannonade*; and the infantry, forming to protect the guns, were but little exposed; only 2 privates of the guards were wounded, 1 private of the light dragoons was killed, and 5 were wounded. Lieutenant RUTHERFORD of the engineers, advanced with the light cavalry, and, mistaken for a Frenchman, owing to his wearing at the time over his uniform a plain blue surtout, received a coup de sabre on the head from one of the British light dragoons, while humanely endeavouring to save the life of a wounded Republican officer.

As is not unfrequently the case, the *feint attack* was here more serious than that which it was alone intended to favour, for, the night preceding the affair of *Lannoi*, Menin had been evacuated, and the Republicans retired at the same time from before *Ypres*.

In vain fearful tremblers ! ye flutter and beat
 Your breasts 'gainst the loop-holes, to force a retreat.
 No more, for tight drawn, the circuitous snare
 Shall your pinions resounding divide the light air :
 So, the Austrians came pounce on the French at Mar-
 chiennes,*

Ere Luna had stole to Endymion again.
 The double snak'd rod had been wav'd o'er each head,
 Ev'ry man was surpriz'd, and was rous'd from his bed.
 Their lives to secure, to a convent they flew,
 Perceiving the Kaisers already in view.
 At discretion surrender'd, and mercy was shewn,
 For a foe once subdued, as a foe's no more known.

* Marchiennes, a town within 3 leagues of St. Amand, was still in the possession of the Republicans, who had advanced from *Douai*. Eight battalions of Austrian infantry were therefore ordered, under General KRAY to march and dispossess them. This force, divided into 3 columns, each preceded by 2 officers and 60 volunteers, supported by 300 men, was put in motion, at midnight on the 29th, and at the same time, four columns were detached by General OTTO, from *Denain sur l'Escaut*, that the place might be assaulted on all sides at once. The latter troops were, however, discovered by the French picquets, and prevented from accomplishing their purpose. Those under General KRAY, one column keeping along the *Chaussée* leading from *Orchies*, and the others advancing upon their left, arrived, without being perceived, within a short distance of *Marchiennes*. The volunteers heading the first column, fell in with a picquet about 200 yards from the gate of *Orchies*, and, bayonetting the greater part of them, pursued those who fled so closely, that they entered the town before the alarm was given. The French assembled in confusion in the market-place, and afterwards took shelter in a convent, where they offered to capitulate, and surrendered prisoners of war to the number of 1629; upon their officers being permitted to wear their side-arms. Twelve pieces of cannon, and 22 tumbrils taken in the town, were the next morning brought to the British camp, near *Campbain*. General KRAY's corps lost between 70 and 80 men in killed and wounded; the French prisoners estimated the loss on their side at nearly 300.

Thus Flanders is clear'd ;* and thus gloriously ends
This Campaign, and we visit *the Fathers*, our friends.

* Thus was frustrated the menaced invasion of the low countries in every direction, and the late season of the year, as well as the heavy rains then prevalent, induced Prince COBOURG to determine upon placing the troops in winter quarters. Those with the Duke of YORK by continually *marching* and *counter-marching*, were much harassed, though they had not, since the retreat from Dunkirk, been as much *in fire* as their allies.

Such was the wetness of the season, while they were encamped near Camphain, that the soldiers every morning might be seen *lading* the water from their tents by *bat-fulls*; they were but scantily provided with *straw*, and consequently fell rapidly sick; two or three men of the guards were so affected, that they dropped down and died, when formed on the parade for *picquet*! one in particular was a corporal of the 3d regiment, who, the preceeding day, appeared in perfect health. The general hospital at Tournay was filled with invalids, and the inattention to their comforts, which has since arisen to such a shameful height, was even at that early period of the war conspicuous in the *medical* depratment. Two men were often placed in the same bed, the one complaining of a *dysentery*, the other of a *putrid fever*; death to both patients usually ensued from such *ignorance*, added to other instances of inhuman treatment and neglect, and the mortality was consequently great. *Sour Burgundy*, which was substituted for *port wine*, as it could be purchased at the rate of about ten-pence a bottle, was the only liquor served out to the sick, heightening in general their disorders: and a *regimental surgeon* who had the *weakness* to feel for his suffering fellow creatures, passing through the hospital one day, when absent from the camp, to visit the patients of his own battalion, was called on to procure them *water* to moisten their parched lips, as they had not, they declared, for many hours, been furnished with a drop of any kind of liquid!

“ *Quis talia fando, temperet a lachrymis?* ”

The British army entered their winter cantonments on the 9th of Nov. the heavy cavalry, and *infantry* battalions, occupying *Tournay*, where there were extensive barracks.

The accounts of the operations on the left banks of the Rhine continued favourable; on the 25th of October, the right wing of the army before Strasbourg was completely routed by General WURMSER's corps, with a loss of 14 pieces of artillery, a great quantity of tents and military stores; the Austrians by this victory gained also an important position at *Wantzenau*, within two leagues of Strasbourg. WURMSER was in his turn attacked in various points upon the 27th, but repulsed his assailants, and the loss sustained by the Republicans, in both engagements,

To-morrow, in triumph, we enter Tournay,
 The *cooks* and the *mules* are already away.
 My laurels, sweet Girl, soon expect at your feet!
 In the curricie, how we shall dash thro' each street!
 Make ready the elegant neat vis-a-vis,
 That holds so exactly my LUCY and me;
 Trim—but halt, silly pen, nor presume to declare,
 All the boundless delight I shall taste with my Fair!

was computed at not less, in killed, wounded, and missing, than 3,000 men.

Fort Louis was bombarded on the 10th of November, and, after sustaining a siege of four days, surrendered to the Austrians, who had 24 men killed before the place, and about 300 wounded; the garrison consisted of 4,000 men, they were made prisoners of war, and 112 pieces of artillery of different callibres; 15 caissons, and a large supply of live stock, fell also into the hands of the besiegers.

To return to the low countries, the French had collected in force at *Poperinge*; and Colonel SALIS, the commandant of Ypres, with a part of his garrison, sallied forth in order to dislodge them, on the 16th of November: without any loss on his side, he took possession of the post, making 4 officers, and 40 privates, prisoners of war; the main body having retreated upon the first appearance of his troops.

1870

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